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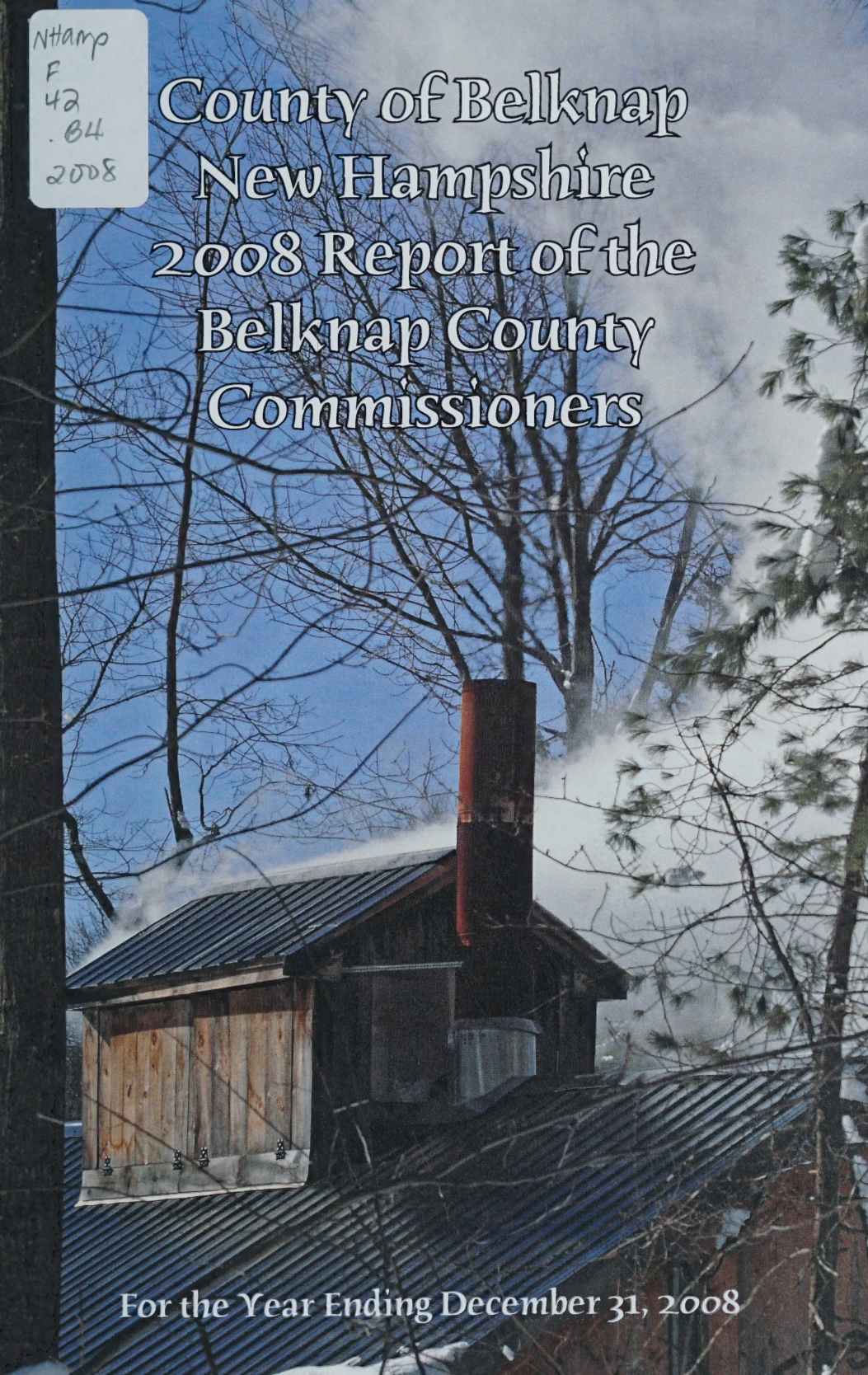
County of Belknap New Hampshire 2008 Report of the Belknap County Commissioners



For the Year Ending December 31, 2008

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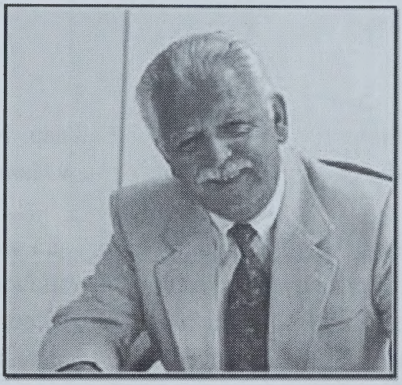
DEDICATION



Philip "Bud" Daigneault

The Belknap County Commissioners wish to dedicate the 2008 Belknap County Annual report to former Chairman of the Board Philip "Bud" Daigneault. Commissioner Daigneault was elected as a Commissioner in 2000. Bud was certainly not new to County Government at the time of this election. He had previously held a number of different capacities within Belknap County Government which started in 1970. That was when he was hired as a deputy sheriff, becoming the first juvenile officer in that department and working his way up to sergeant, then lieutenant and assistant Sheriff. In 1982, Bud was hired as the County Administrator & Finance Officer. He held that position for 16 years, retiring in 1998. That was Bud's first retirement from County Government after 28 years of dedicated service.

Commissioner Daigneault was then elected to his first term as a Commissioner in 2000. He went on to serve two 2-year, and one 4-year term. This concluded his career in County Government at the end of 2008. That made his total tenure in County Government an impressive 38 years. Commissioner Daigneault clearly is a man of honor and dedication and he leaves a strong legacy both as a public servant and as a man of integrity. Commissioner Daigneault is very well respected throughout the Community and the State and his contributions will be remembered for years to come.

Belknap County, New Hampshire
HISTORY

Form of Government: The County of Belknap, New Hampshire, was established in 1840 under the laws of the State of New Hampshire.

The seat of Belknap County is based in Laconia and provides support to the citizens of ten towns and one city in the form of the following services: Citizens Council on Children and Families, Corrections Facility, County Attorney, Finance, Human Services, Registry of Deeds, Juvenile Restorative Justice, Maintenance, Nursing Home and Sheriff's Department.

The county operates under the Commissioners (Executive Branch consisting of three elected Commissioners) and Convention (Legislative Branch consisting of 18 elected Representatives) form of Government and provides services as authorized by the State statue.

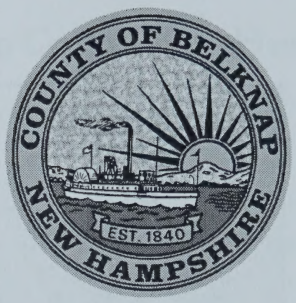
The three member Board of Commissioners (as mandated by New Hampshire Statute RSA 28) are part time elected officials responsible for overall supervision, custody and care of all county departments, buildings and land, and have budgetary oversight of all county expenditures. They are elected into staggered four and two-year terms by the voters of the districts each are assigned to. The annual county budget is prepared by the Commissioners and Department Heads and submitted to the County Convention for final approval.

Chairman
Philip P. "Bud" Daigneault

Vice Chairman
Christopher D. Boothby

Clerk
Richard W. Long

For the Year Ending December 31, 2008



Belknap County Seal

The seal of Belknap County was commissioned in the latter part of 1976, the year of our nation's bicentennial, and adopted in February of 1977. Designed and executed by Mr. Norman M. Dexter of Nashua, who donated his services to Belknap County, the seal includes several symbols important to the county and its history.

Depicted on the waters of Lake Winnipesaukee, the largest body of fresh water in the northeast (which touches the shores of just about every town and city in the county) is the old paddle wheeler Mount Washington. The Mount graced the Big Lake until 1939, when it was destroyed by fire. Yet, to this day it continues to serve as a symbol of the grace, dignity and unique New England character for which the people and the area are known throughout the country. It could be said that the Mount stands for the commerce the Lake has provided for our people, going back to the fishing days of the Indians; for the many recreation and leisure time activities the county has offered its many visitors from throughout the world; and for the great creativity with which the people of Belknap County have used these natural resources to their ultimate advantage and prosperity.

The rising sun – a symbol of hope and renewal as well as the blessings of a patient, graceful Providence – is shown bursting forth over the Mount Belknap, which lies just east of the center in the county. The Mountain is named for Dr. Jeremy Belknap, noted historian, clergyman, and naturalist, after whom the county was named in 1840. Dr. Belknap wrote the first history of New Hampshire, pastored the First Congregational Church at Dover (1766-1786), and founded the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1794.

Originally part of the Strafford County, the County of Belknap was formed by Legislative act in December 1840.

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2008 Belknap County Officers

COMMISSIONERS
Philip P. Daigneault, Chairman – Laconia
Christopher D. Boothby, Vice-Chairman – Meredith
Richard W. Long, Clerk – Belmont

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Debra A. Shackett - Gilmanton

COUNTY TREASURER
Michael G. Muzzey – Laconia

COUNTY ATTORNEY
James Carroll - Laconia

SHERIFF
Craig Wiggin - Meredith

REGISTRAR OF DEEDS
Barbara R. Luther - Laconia

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Richard A. Grenier – Gilford

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Brian J. Loanes - Belmont

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR
Courtney Marshall – Grantham

HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR
Carol N. Schonfeld – Gilmanton

CITIZEN'S COUNCIL ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Alan Robichaud – Belmont

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE
Harold Powell - Alton

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
Dana W. Zucker – Gilford

JUDGE OF PROBATE
Christina M. O'Neill – Laconia

REGISTRAR OF PROBATE
Karen H. Brickner– Laconia

COUNTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
Thomas A. Andrew – C.M.E.

COUNTY CHAPLAIN
Reverend Harry Woodley

2008
Belknap County Convention
(Legislative Delegation) (18)

District No. 1
Center Harbor, New Hampton (1)
Francine Wendelboe (r) – New Hampton

District No. 2
Sanbornton, Tilton (2)
Gail C. Morrison (d) - Tilton
William B. Tobin (r) - Sanbornton

District No. 3
Meredith (2)
Bruce D. Heald (r)
Stephen H. Nedeau (r)

District No. 4
Laconia (5)
Judith Reever (d)
Donald H. Flanders (r)
Beth Arsenault (d)
Franklin T. Tilton (r)
Jane Wood (d)

District No. 5
Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Gilford (7)
Janet F. Allen (r) - Barnstead
Laurie J. Boyce (r) - Alton
Charles L. Clark (r) - Gilford
Alida I. Millham (r) - Gilford
James P. Pilliod (r) - Belmont
John H. Thomas (r) – Belmont
Michael D. Whalley (r) - Alton

District No. 6
Gilmanton (1)
David H. Russell (r) - Gilmanton

Executive Committee
Stephen Nedeau – Alida Millham
David Russell – John Thomas
Jim Pilliod – Jane Wood – Frank Tilton

Belknap County Directory

Board of Commissioners **527-5400**
Chairman: Philip P. Daigneault, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5409**
Vice Chairman: Christopher D. Boothby, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246
Clerk: Richard W. Long, 34 County Dive, Laconia, NH 03246

County Treasurer **527-5400**
Michael G. Muzzey, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5409**

County Administrator and Finance Officer **527-5400**
Debra A. Shackett, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5409**

County Attorney **527-5440**
James Carroll, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5449**

Registrar of Deeds **527-5420**
Barbara Luther, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5429**

Sheriff **527-5454**
Craig Wiggin, 42 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5469**

Corrections Superintendent **527-5480**
Richard A. Grenier, 76 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5489**

Restorative Justice Program Director **527-5493**
Brian J. Loanes, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5498**

Human Services Administrator **527-5470**
Carol N. Schonfeld, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5471**

Director of Maintenance **527-5490**
Harold Powell, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5449**

Nursing Home Administrator **527-5410**
Courtney Marshall, 30 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5419**

Belknap County Citizen's Council Executive Director **527-2432**
Alan Robichaud, One Mill Plaza, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5477**

Conservation District Director **527-5880**
Lisa Morin, 719 North Main Street, Room #203, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 528-8783**

Economic Development Council Executive Director **524-3057**
Jennifer Boulanger, So. Univ. Bldg., 2 Airport Rd, Gilford, NH 03249 **Fax: 524-0314**

UNH Cooperative Extension Administrator **527-5475**
Amy Ouellette, 36 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 **Fax: 527-5477**

Belknap County Delegation Meeting
January 7, 2008
Belknap County Complex

Re: Interviews for Registrar of Deeds Vacancy

Present: Reps. Wendelboe, Morrison, Tobin, Nedeau, Flanders, Tilton, Wood, Allen, Clark, Millham, Thomas, Whalley and Russell

Chairman Nedeau called meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

The following candidates were interviewed:

Steve Hodges, Gilford
Jessica French, Laconia
Barbara Luther, Laconia

Brief discussion followed, Rep. Whalley Moved, Rep. Wendelboe second, to nominate Barbara Luther for the position. M/Russell, 2nd Flanders to close nominations. **Unanimous.**

A roll call was taken, and the vote was unanimous at 13-0. Mrs. Luther was invited back and congratulated by Chairman Nedeau and the rest of the delegation present.

M/Thomas, 2nd Clark to adjourn, 7:29.

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Economic Development
Sub Committee Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2008

Convention members present: Rep. John Thomas, Chair
Rep. Judith Reever
Rep. Don Flanders
Rep. Beth Arseneault

Council members present: Greg Goddard, Chair
Michael Persson, Treasurer
David Haley, Past Chair

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Thomas at 9:15AM.

An in depth overview of the Economic Development Council and its mission was presented by Chair Goddard. He also gave an outline of where the Council hopes to be in the future in regard to the future of business development in the County. Mr. Goddard also spoke of the annual meeting coming up in March.

Michael Persson presented the sub-committee with a financial review of the Council and the need for the budget request of $75,000.00.

David Haley spoke of the Council's history and how it has progressed over the years. He also spoke of the number of jobs created but more importantly of the amount of jobs retained because of the efforts of the Council.

A motion to approve the $75,000.00 request was made by Rep. Flanders and a second was offered by Rep. Reever. The vote was 4-0 in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rep. John Thomas, Chair

Belknap County
Nursing Home Subcommittee Meeting
January 21, 2008

The Nursing Home subcommittee met at the Nursing Home with Nancy Cook and members of the Nursing Home staff.

Present from the Delegation: Rep Pilliod, Rep. Clark, Rep Nedeau, Rep. Wendelboe, Rep. Millham.

Staff: Nancy Cook, Christopher Rogers, Patty Ricks, Diane Roberts, Charlotte Flanagan, Annette Garland, Dennis Beault, Carolee DeRoche, Ann Kyle, Deb Laflamme.

The budget was reviewed by those present.

Revenues:

1. Medicaid: the Medicaid reduction has not been factored in this budget. This means that some of the Revenue side of the budget is uncertain.

2. The Nursing Home is preparing to become Medicare certified.

Expenses:
It was noted that the Health Insurance line is down by 9.17% due to a renegotiation of the contract with Anthem by the Government Center Office of Counties. There has also been a negotiated union contract signed.

Issues with the budget that will need further review:

1. Four new computers being requested.
2. Tools and items in General Operating supplies
3. Parking Lot resurfacing
4. There is a reduction in the "Restorative Service" by one nurse which may be a problem when the Home is certified for Medicare.
5. Building maintenance items.
6. Lowering of electricity line item
7. Impact of union contract
8. Supply of nurses for 24 hour coverage.
9. Medical supplies may be low.

The next meeting will be February 4, Monday at 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Millham, Chair

Belknap County Convention
Court House Sub-committee
Minutes January 25, 2008

Sub-committee held a work session at the Belknap County courthouse on 25, January 2008. Present were sub-committee members Reps Janet Allen, Bruce Heald, Gail Morrison, and Frank Tilton. Additional attendees were Rep Laurie Boyce and County Administrator and Finance Officer Nancy Cook. Absent was Rep Jane Wood.

Session convened at 9:10 AM.

Registrar of Deeds Barbara Luther reviewed her departments budgeted revenues and expenses. The sub-committee agreed to deviate from the Commissioners' recommendations on the following:

line 01.4120.0188.51 change $1,000 to $0
line 01.4120.0189.51 change $2,383 to $2,000
line 01.4120.0197.51 change $1,550 to $1,100

Motion was made by Rep Heald and seconded by Reps Boyce and Allen to recommend budget revenue of $936,700 and expenses of $577,888. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Human Services Administrator Carol Schonfeld reviewed her departments budgeted revenues and expenses. She submitted revised revenue projections (enclosure page 4) and revised expense requests (enclosure pages 1-3). These updated numbers are based on the actual data compiled subsequent to previous submissions and more accurately forecast the 2008 revenues and expenses. The sub-committee agreed with the revised submissions.

Motion was made by Rep Heald and seconded by Reps Boyce and Allen to recommend budget revenue of $319,557 and expenses of $5,917,888. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Reps Morrison and Boyce departed the meeting at 10:15 AM.

County Attorney Jim Carroll reviewed his department's budgeted revenues and expenses. The sub-committee agreed with the Commissioners' recommendations.

Motion was made by Rep Heald and seconded by Rep Allen to recommend budget revenue of $55,200 and expenses of $561,131. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Franklin T. Tilton, Chairman

Belknap County Convention
Public Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2008

Present: Rep. Boyce, Rep Thomas, Rep. Reever, Rep Millham, Rep. Nedeau, Rep. Pilliod, Rep. Clark, Rep. Flanders, Rep. Tilton, Rep. Morrison, Rep. Wood, Rep. Tobin, Rep. Wendelboe.

Commissioner Daigneault, County Administrator Cook, Department and Council Heads.

The meeting commenced with the Salute to the Flag.

Doug Lambert asked that the vote not be taken tonight, as he contended there "had not been a true public hearing". Thomas Tardif made the same request and cited RSA 24:23.

The Convention proceeded to go through the budget department by department with public comment solicited with each category.

1. Commissioner's Budget: Motion by Rep. Boyce seconded by Rep. Tilton to approve the amount of $267,550. Unanimous aye vote.
2. Finance Budget: Motion by Rep. Wendelboe, seconded by Rep. Thomas to approve the amount of $308,279. Unanimous aye vote.
3. Citizen's Council: Motion by Rep. Clark, seconded by Rep. Reever to approve the amount of $253,907. Unanimous aye vote.
4. County Attorney: Motion by Rep Tilton, seconded by Rep. Flanders to approve the amount of $561, 131. Unanimous aye vote.
5. Registrar of Deeds: Motion by Rep. Tilton, seconded by Rep. Pilliod. It was noted that there were three changes in this budget from the Commissioners Budget, which resulted in a decrease in the total amount. Unanimous aye vote.
6. Sheriff: Motion by Rep. Flanders, seconded by Rep. Boyce to approve the amount of $1,982,233. Unanimous aye vote.
7. Restorative Justice: Motion by Rep. Flanders, seconded by Rep. Clark to approve the amount of $131,834. There were no changes in this budget from the Commissioner's Budget. Unanimous aye vote.
8. Medical Referee: Motion by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Wendelboe to approve the amount of $18,000. In response to the question of why the 2007 budget was $6500 higher it was noted that there

has been a change, through legislation, in the amount the state pays for some autopsies. It was also noted that there had been an unusual number of young people dying from drug overdoses. These situations require autopsies. Unanimous aye vote.

9. Maintenance Department including the Court House: Motion by Rep. Boyce seconded by Rep. Flanders to approve the amount of $407,871. Unanimous aye vote.
10. Human Services: Motion by Rep Tilton, seconded by Rep. Flanders to approve the amount of $5,917,888. Unanimous aye vote.

In response to a question from the public it was reported that the contract for health insurance through the State Association had brought a 9.1% decrease in the cost of health insurance. It was also noted that the cost of an extra pay period, a situation that occurs ever 7 years, was in the 2008 budget.

11. Corrections Budget: Motion by Rep. Flanders, seconded by Rep. Boyce to approve the amount of $3,226,789. Unanimous aye vote. It was noted that the budget was calculated for 90 inmates. This is up from 75 in prior budgets.
12. Gunstock: It was noted at the outset that Gunstock is not a department but a separate entity within the County. It was also noted that the County receives an amount of $150,000 from Gunstock. Motion by Rep. Pilliod, seconded by Rep. Wood to approve the amount of $180,916. Unanimous aye vote.
13. Outside agencies:
    a. Cooperative Extension: Motion by Rep. Boyce, seconded by Rep. Wendelboe to approve the amount of $143,243. It was noted that there has been a new forester hired. Unanimous aye vote.
    b. Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid: Motion by Rep. Tilton, seconded by Rep. Morrison to approve the amount of $469,492. Unanimous aye vote.
    c. Delegation expense: Motion by Rep. Boyce, seconded by Rep. Wood to approve the amount of $7,000. Unanimous aye vote.
    d. Conservation District: Motion by Rep. Boyce, seconded by Rep. Wood to approve the amount of $91,220. Unanimous aye vote.
    e. Genesis Behavior Health: Motion by Rep. Boyce, seconded by Rep. Reever to approve the amount of $34,200. The history of appropriations for Genesis was reviewed. Executive Director Margaret Pritchard noted that the agency came to the county for support of uncompensated care to Belknap County residents. The agency asks

towns for money to support Emergency Care which is not paid for by the state monies. Unanimous aye vote.

f. Airport Authority: Motion by Rep. Tilton, seconded by Rep. Pilliod to approve the amount of $10,000. It was noted that this is part of the upgrade project at the airport. Unanimous aye vote.

g. Community Action Program: Motion by Rep. Boyce, seconded by Rep. Wood to approve the amount of $50,905 . Unanimous aye vote. Doug Lambert made a public objection to money to pay for transportation through the Winnipesaukee Transit System.

h. Economic Development Council: Motion by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Boyce to approve the amount of $75,000. Aye vote 12-0 with Rep. Wood abstaining. Motion passed.

14. Nursing Home: Motion by Rep. Millham, seconded by Rep. Boyce to approve the amount of $11,335,902. Unanimous aye vote. This amount includes $15,000 for dryers that had been eliminated from the Commissioner's Budget.
15. Motion by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Wendelboe to give the Belknap county Treasurer Michael Muzzey authorization to borrow in anticipation of revenue through taxation: $14,940,632. Unanimous aye vote.
16. Motion by Rep. Tilton, seconded by Rep. Reever to:
    a. Allow public input, in writing, regarding the budget up to February 29.
    b. Schedule a public hearing for March 4 and 7pm.
    c. Complete a vote on the budget at the close of the hearing.

Unanimous aye vote.

There being no further business there was a motion by Rep. Tilton, seconded by Rep. Boyce to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida I. Millham, clerk pro tem

Belknap County Convention
Budget Public Hearing
March 4, 2008

Present: Reps. Wendelboe, Tobin, Heald, Nedeau, Reever, Tilton, Wood, Boyce, Millham, Pilliod, Thomas, Russell.

Chairman Nedeau calls meeting to order at 7 p.m. Moment of Silence observed for the late Rep. Mike Whalley.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Daigneault opened the hearing by explaining that there was a $350,000 reduction in revenue to be raised by taxes, Gunstock being responsible for the largest portion, and the audit producing the remainder. He also advised that the Nursing Home is responsible for the lion's share of the budget deficit for the last two years, and a 10.25% increase in this area will be passed on to the taxpayers.

A question was raised regarding if the state taking over the Nursing Home and Correctional Facilities? Answer: the state doesn't have the expertise, nor could they afford to do it.

A challenge was made regarding the County Attorney's budget on several fronts, to which Atty. Carroll responded satisfactorily.

The County Sheriff's budget was also challenged, with Sheriff Wiggin providing proper answers to all.

The Commission was asked if TAN's (Tax Anticipation Notes) could be eliminated as a way of saving money. The answer being what if the County could bill the towns semi-annually, we wouldn't need TAN's.

It was asked if union employees of the County were getting a better "deal" than non-union? Answer: No, everyone treated the same.

County Restorative Justice Agency was also challenged on their expenses, and director Alan Robichaud responded with a satisfactory explanation.

Barbara Luther, Registrar of Deeds, explained her budget line by line, and no questions were asked.

Chairman Nedeau closes Public Hearing at 10:26 p.m.

M/Wood, 2nd/Wendelboe to remove $3,000 from Maintenance Budget. Motion defeated.

M/Reever, 2nd/Boyce to adopt the year 2008 Belknap County Budget authorizing General Fund Revenue of $19,147,054. and General Fund Expenditures in the amount of $14,590,632. and Nursing Home Revenue and Expenditures in the amount of $11,335,902, making the 2008 Belknap County Budget $26,620,211. Motion carries Unanimously.

M/Boyce, 2nd/Wendelboe to give the County Treasurer or Michael Muzzey authorization to borrow in anticipation of revenue through taxation up to $14,590,632. Motion carries Unanimously.

M/Millham, 2nd/Wood to the effect that all funds appropriated for all line-items of the year 2008 Belknap County Budget shall be nontransferable without prior approval of the Executive Committee or the full County Convention in accordance with RSA 24:14. The one exception is that the Commissioners are authorized to transfer funds within each department from one line item to another in an amount not to exceed $10,000 on any given instance. Motion carries Unanimously.

M/Boyce, 2nd/Tilton adjourn 10:43. Motion carries Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, w/ Alida Millham
Clerk

Belknap County Delegation Meeting
April 1, 2008 - 7:00 PM
County Complex

Present: Reps. Wendelboe, Morrison, Tobin, Heald, Nedeau, Flanders, Reever, Tilton, Wood, Allen, Boyce, Clark, Millham, Thomas and Russell.

Salute to the Flag.

Chairman Nedeau calls meeting to order 7:05 p.m. and introduces David Barnes, Bond Counsel for Belknap County. Atty. Barnes is of the opinion that the Delegation erred in the authorization of issuance of notes. He also feels we can cure this with the cooperation of the Delegation and Commissioners. Only the Executive Committee can authorize borrowing.

Commissioner Daigneault reads results of their meeting just held, which asks that the Executive Committee meet to authorize such borrowing, that meeting to take place immediately following the Convention Meeting of 04/01/08. Because of this error, the Commission must file a supplemental budget to the State.

M/Millham, S/Wendelboe to adopt the following resolution:

> WHEREAS, by past actions, including those taken at its meeting on December 10, February 19, 2008 and March 4, 2008 (the "Past Proceedings"), the Belknap County Convention ("the Convention") authorized the County to borrow pursuant to RSA 29:8 in the amounts of $14,271,909, $14,940,632 and $14,590,632, respectively; and
>
> WHEREAS, certain residents of the County have alleged that the Past Proceedings were defective for a number reasons, including (i) the fact that borrowing under RSA 29:8 should have been authorized by the Convention's Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee"); and (ii) that effect of the Past Proceedings was to authorize the County to borrow an amount consisting of the aggregate of the amounts referenced in each of the three separate authorizations (collectively the "Objections"; and
>
> WHEREAS, the Convention does not believe that the Objections have any merit, but desires to clarify the intent of the Past Proceedings and to take action so that the County may proceed without dispute to borrow funds under RSA 29:8 to meet it's obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby:

RESOLVED: that the Convention hereby indicates that the intent of the Past Proceedings was not to authorize the County to borrow an amount consisting of the aggregate of the amounts referenced in each of the three separate authorizations; but rather that the intent was to authorize a borrowing of up to $14,271,909, the amount authorized in the last of the Past Proceedings that took place on Dec. 10, 2007;

RESOLVED: that the borrowing authorization(s) contained in the Past Proceedings are hereby rescinded with the understanding that the Executive Committee, pursuant to a vote taken at its meeting on this date, will be acting to authorize the County to borrow sums pursuant to the provisions of RSA:29.8; and

RESOLVED: that all prior actions, if any, taken by the Convention consistent with the foregoing, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Voice Vote Unanimous.

M/Millham, S/Russell for the Chair to appoint a three person work group to develop and recommend procedural guidelines for the County Convention.

Voice Vote Unanimous.

Chair appoints Rep. Millham (Chair), Rep. Wood and Rep. Tilton.

M/Tilton, S/Flanders to adjourn 7:30 p.m. Unanimous.

7:40 p.m. Chairman Nedeau calls Executive Committee meeting to order.

Present: Reps. Tilton, Boyce, Russell, Nedeau, Millham and Wood.

M/Millham, S/Russell to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, by past actions, including those taken at its meetings on December 10, 2007, February 19, 2008, and March 4, 2008 (the Past Proceedings), the Belknap County Convention (the "Convention") authorized the County to borrow pursuant to RSA 29:8 in the amounts of $14,271,909, $14,940,632 and $14,590,632, respectively, and

WHEREAS, certain residents of the County have alleged that the Past Proceedings were defective for a number reasons, including (i) the fact that borrowings under RSA 29:8 should have been authorized by the Convention's Executive Committee (the Executive Committee"); and (ii) that effect

of the Past Proceedings was to authorize the County to borrow an amount consisting of the aggregate of the amounts referenced in each of the three separate authorizations (collectively the "Objections"); and

WHEREAS, while the Executive Committee does not believe that the Objections have merit; it wishes to take action so that the County may proceed to borrow funds without dispute pursuant to RSA 29:8 to meet its obligations; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners (the "Commissioners") have, by action of even date, ordered the County Treasurer (the "Treasurer") to borrow up to $14,271,909 under the provisions of RSA 29:8 to meet the demands upon the treasury of the County, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, a copy of such order (the "Order") being attached thereto as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing it is hereby:

RESOLVED: that, based upon the Cash Flow Statement attached hereto as Exhibit B and the testimony of the Treasurer (who has appeared in person before us at this meeting) the Executive Committee hereby finds that the money in the County's treasury is insufficient to pay the demands upon the same;

RESOLVED: that the Executive Committee hereby approves the Order of the Commissioners and, to that end, the County is hereby authorized to borrow up to $14,271,909 pursuant to the provisions of RSA 29:8, such amount being deemed necessary to meet the demands upon the County treasury;

RESOLVED; that the county is hereby authorized to give its note therefore as provided in RSA 29:8; and

RESOLVED: that all actions heretofore taken by the executive Committee consistent with the foregoing are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Voice Vote 6-0

M/Tilton, S/Wood to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
David H Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention
Work Group Meeting
April 21,2008 - 4pm

Present: Rep. Tilton, Rep. Wood, and Rep Millham

1. Review of the Agenda for the work group:
   a. Orientation of Convention members to county responsibility.
   b. Meeting Process: regular meeting, filling vacancies, budget process.
   c. Glossary
   d. Time Line of critical dates.
2. Discussion of orientation of Convention members.
   An initial orientation should happen between the election and December 1 to orient convention members to County responsibilities. A loose leaf notebook will be prepared with current Revised Statutes Annotated relating to County work (RSA 24.]; RSA 91-A; Gunstock Session Law, and other related material.
3. Meeting Process:
   a. The initial meeting of the new Convention will be held per RSA 24:9a, during the week of the second Wednesday of December of each even numbered year. The budget will be distributed by the County Commissioners at least 10 days before that meeting.
   The first meeting will include:
   - The election of officers.
   - Public meeting and hearing of the budget with detail presentation by the Commissioners and Department heads.
   - Public comment

   b. The subcommittees will, subsequently, be appointed by the Chair. They will meet with Department heads to review the budget of each subcommittee responsibility. These meetings will occur between the first Convention meeting and January 30. The subcommittee meetings will be posted and minutes will be prepared by a clerk or the chair.
   c. In February there will be a public meeting and hearing scheduled. The agenda of that meeting:
   - Hear reports from subcommittee and vote on recommendations
     1. Have a public hearing on the budget as amended
     2. Vote on the budget. The vote can be delayed if more time is needed.

d. Commissioners will present a Statement of Condition of the County by February 15. This report is the update of the budget draft with YTD expenditures. (Possibly include the recommendations of the subcommittees.)
e. Deadline for the approval of the budget is 90 days after the beginning of the fiscal year.
f. In the second year of the Convention biennium the process will be similar in scope and time frame.

Questions to be answered:

1. What is Town Budget deadline?
2. Should we consider including having the subcommittees report to the Exec. Comm. before the Convention meeting as another County currently does.)?

Next meeting work:

1. Review work to date.
2. Outline RSA 91-A procedures for meetings, minutes, non-public sessions, replacing vacancies, exemptions.
3. Executive Committee responsibilities.
4. Recommend A/G office attorney Nancy Smith come a make presentation to convention.

NEXT MEETING: May 5, 2008----4:30pm at the County Complex

Submitted by Alida Millham

Belknap County Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
May 5, 2008, 4 PM

Chairman Nedeau calls meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Reps. Tilton, Millham, Russell, Nedeau, Thomas and Wood.

Agenda: Review Salary recommendations for elected County officials.

Members reviewed a survey prepared by the New Hampshire Association of Counties, which listed the present salaries of officials of all ten Counties. The survey revealed that Belknap County Officials are the highest paid in the State, by a substantial margin.

Options for the Committee include: A) to recommend no change to the salaries; B) to ask for a 3% COLA, C) 3% COLA plus step increase.

The Chairman asked that no motions be brought to the floor, but to entertain them at the next meeting of May 19.

M/Thomas, S/Tilton to adjourn at 4:47 p.m.

Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention
Supplemental Budget Appropriation Meeting
May 6, 2008 - 7 PM

Present: Reps. Morrison, Tilton, Flanders, Clark, Pilliod, Russell, Nedeau, Thomas, Millham, Reever, Allen, Boyce, Wood.

Commissioners: Daigneault, Boothby and Long.

Chairman Nedeau introduces Commissioner Daigneault who explains Supplemental Appropriations and announced the County needed less money than anticipated.

Commissioner Boothby explains the appropriation is actually a decrease. Total cap for all Counties in Human Service expense is $98 Million. Our portion is 5.1% of that, 8% increase will be cut back to 6.9%.

Public Input: Kurt McGee, Sanbornton questions propriety of the County borrowing through tax anticipation notes (TANs). Subject of billing Towns twice a year was also revisited.

Doug Lambert of Gilford questions several line items in the supplemental Budget.

Tom Tardiff of Laconia challenges procedure of decreasing Budget while Meeting was noticed as a Budget increase. Also wants to know why we need a Supplemental Budget, claims Budget is increased by $447,000. Complains that the Financial Report is not available to the public. Quotes figures that disagree with the reports. Opposed to any Supplemental Appropriation. This is too early in the budget cycle to be doing this.

Skip Murphy of Gilford. Will the County tax bill then be decreased? Yes, down from 10.25% to 6.6%.

Chairman Nedeau asks for a show of hands of Delegation Members who approve of the numbers presented by the Commission. (Unanimous)

M/Tilton, S/Flanders to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. (Unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
May 13, 2008 - 6:00 PM

Present: Reps. Nedeau, Russell, and Tilton

Chair opens meeting at 6:00 p.m., and declares a recess for lack of a quorum.

Meeting re-convened at 7:07 p.m.

Agenda: Review and make recommendation to the Convention regarding the salaries of the elected County officials.

M/Russell, S/Tilton to recommend no increase in this biennium.
Unanimous.

M/Tilton, S/Pilliod Adjourn 7:20. Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention
Meeting Process Work Group
May 19, 2008 - 4pm
Belknap County Complex

Present: A. Millham, F. Tilton. No members of the public present.

1. Review of the convention member orientation notebook. A. Millham will add an introduction page.
2. We need a laminated page of process for motions to go into non-public sessions.
3. There needs to be further discussion and research on the process for filling vacancies. This responsibility is done differently in most instances in the recent past in different counties. We will revisit the process for appointing a Gunstock Commissioner. Question asked and not answered about the need to allow ballot votes on filling elected official vacancies. This would require a statutory change.
4. There will be "Timeline" constructed.
5. F. Tilton will review RSA 661:9-I, II.
6. Every meeting should have a printed agenda that includes: Approval of minutes and an order of business including time for public comment.
7. How should the Convention Coordination responsibilities be executed? What is the role of the County Administration office with the Convention?
8. Is February 15th too early for the sub committees? Executive Committee would receive budgets from the sub committee prior to the Convention meeting.
9. We need to remind the Chair of the Convention that the Exec. Comm needs to meet on a quarterly basis to review financial statements.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Millham

Belknap County Convention Meeting
June 6, 2008 at 7: 00 P.M.

Present: Representatives Nedeau, Tilton, Tobin, Allen, Arsenault, Morrison, Clark, Wood, Boyce, Pilliod, Wendelboe and Thomas.

Chairman Stephen Nedeau called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Philip P. Daigneault spoke to the delegation with a request for transfers, which are attached to the minutes. Commissioner Daigneault explained in greater detail the hand out followed by questions from the County Convention members. There was discussion.

Discussion ensued and motion made by Rep Thomas to accept the transfers in the amount of $57,347.00. Motion seconded by Rep Boyce. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Motion made by Rep Wood to authorize the 4th quarter of 2007 Primex payment of $32,507 for workers compensation insurance. Seconded by Rep Morrison. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Motion made by Rep Boyce to approve the Nursing Home transfers in the amount of $265,408. Motion seconded by Rep Thomas. Unanimous. Motion carries.

There will be an executive committee meeting in June.

Chairman Nedeau reviewed the May meeting of the Executive Committee where there were discussions regarding elected officials wages. The elected officials in Belknap County are the highest paid in the State. There were discussions.

Options for the County convention to vote are as follows:

a. To recommend no change to the salaries at this time
b. Ask for a 3% COLA (cost of living adjustment)
c. 3% COLA plus a step increase

Rep Wendelboe made the motion to accept option (a) of not raising any salaries of elected officials at this time, NOT including the Commissioners. Motion is to freeze all raises. Rep Boyce seconded. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Regarding the Commissioners salaries, Rep Tilton recused himself from this vote. Rep Boyce made the motion to freeze salaries for the Commissioners for the 2008-2009 budget. Rep Wendelboe seconded. Unanimous. Motion caries.

With no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn made by Rep Boyce. Seconded by Rep. Thomas. Unanimous. Motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Janet Allen (acting clerk)

Belknap County Convention Meeting
June 25, 2008 - 7:00 PM

Agenda: To appoint an interim Sheriff to fill a vacancy.

Present: Reps. Morrison, Tobin, Nedeau, Arsenault, Flanders, Reever, Tilton, Wood, Allen, Boyce, Clark, Millham, Pilliod, Thomas, and Russell.

Chairman Nedeau opens meeting at 7:02 PM. Open for discussion RE: letter from County Attorney.

Rep. Morrison feels we are in violation of the right-to-know law. That we should restart the whole process.

Rep. Thomas references filling Commissioner Bartlett's position where we were making an "appointment" to fill a vacancy.

Rep. Tilton references RSA, which states the Delegation shall fill any vacancy.

Rep. Wood agrees we are simply filling a vacancy. Would still like to have all seven candidates re-reviewed in public session.

Chairman Nedeau reads letter to the Convention from the County Attorney.

Rep Thomas inquires, "Is this an election or an appointment to fill a vacancy?" Wants to have second in command run the department with the advice and counseling of Craig Wiggin.

Rep. Arsenault also wants to redo the whole process.

Rep. Nedeau would rather appoint Wiggin tonight based on letters from eleven Chiefs and law enforcement leaders.

Rep. Reever states that we have to do the process properly this time, i.e., start over.

Rep. Allen inquires that if we don't appoint a Sheriff tonight, who is on charge? Answer: Lieutenant (second in command).

Rep. Clark asks, "What is the status of Mr. Wiggins pay?" Answer: He is not being paid.

Rep. Tilton states we need to get on with this, as most people in this room are ready to appoint Mr. Wiggin.

Rep. Millham agrees with Attorney Carroll that we have the authority to fill the position.

Rep. Morrison says that the Court advises that this is an appointment, not an election. Still thinks we ought to readvertise and start the process over again.

M/Morrison, S/Reever to start the process over again but in total openness. The motion is to include:

a. Placing a notice in a newspaper of local circulation seeking applicants.
b. Publicly interview all candidates.
c. Publicly deliberate and nominate a candidate to be the appointee, and to do so as timely as possible.

Motion fails 5 to 10 on roll call votes.

M/Tobin, S/Boyce to appoint Craig Wiggin to fill the vacancy of Sheriff as advised by the County Attorney for the unexpired term.

Motion passes 11 to 0 with 4 abstentions by roll call votes.

Public Input:

Debbie Cost thanked Delegation for their action, saying they made a good choice.

Thomas Alden also says thank you and that delegation made the right decision.

Doug Lambert says you cheated the public. Feels whole process should have been started over. Also wants Wiggin to pay his salary back.

Frank Mello says that we did the best thing.

Christopher Cost feels we made the best choice.

Dwight Dodd, retired State Trooper, compliments Craig Wiggin's accomplishments.

Patrick Wood, Attorney concerned about tonight's actions. Feels the delegation should have interviewed the six other candidates who ran with Craig Wiggin and do the vote over.

David Perkins of Gilford says he is disappointed that more people (public) weren't there.

Thomas Tardif doesn't agree with the decision. Says the County Attorney provided him and Mr. Lambert with all the information on the seven candidates at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Robert Estes feels the delegation did everything properly.

Craig Wiggin thanks the delegation and says he has no issues with the confidentiality and has an open record and nothing to hide.

Robert Henderson said we did the right thing and that we represent our constituents proudly.

Doug Lambert says that the County Commissioners acted improperly in reference to the audit.

Chairman Nedeau advised this is not a topic for tonight's meeting.

M/Thomas, S/Boyce to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rep. David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, July 7, 2008 - 7:00 PM
Commissioners' Office

Present: Commissioners Daigneault and Long
Reps. Millham, Nedeau, Pilliod and Russell
Debra Shackett, Administrator
Marie Mora, Ass't. Finance Officer

Agenda: Review of the last quarter Belknap County Budget update from the Commissioners Per RSA #24:9.

Chairman Nedeau opens meeting at 7:05 p.m. Spread Sheets of Revenues and Expenditures were distributed, and a question and answer discussion followed to explain some line items that were somewhat complicated. The Commission and Delegation were both satisfied with the report.

No motions or decisions were made.

M/Millham, S/Pilliod to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention Meeting
County Complex
August 5, 2008 - 7:00 PM

Agenda: Review and vote on Gunstock's proposals.
1) Revenue anticipation note.
2) Funding for roads, bridges and sign improvement.
3) Snowmaking, lifts, and trails improvements.

Present: Reps. Wendelboe, Morrison, Tobin, Heald, Nedeau, Arsenault, Flanders, Reever, Tilton, Wood, Allen, Clark, Millham, Pilliod, Thomas, and Russell.

Chairman Nedeau calls meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

M/Wood, S/Reever to approve bonding for lift, trail and snowmaking Improvements in the amount of $3,250,000.

Discussion: Rep. Wood spoke in favor of the proposal. Rep. Pilliod fully in favor, particularly the emphasis on beginners. Rep. Millham spoke in favor. Rep. Wendelboe spoke in favor, and Rep. Tobin spoke in favor. Roll call vote passes 15-0.

M/Wendelboe, S/Thomas to approve bonding for road, bridge and signage repair in the amount of $525,000.

Discussion: Rep. Wendelboe said proposal is much needed. Rep. Tilton feels the proposal is excellent. Greg Goddard feels we can accomplish everything within budget. Rep. Pilliod says that the bridge is the only County owned in the State and is thus eligible for 80% State funding. Roll call vote passes 16-0.

M/Arsenault, S/Reever to approve revenue anticipation authorization in the amount of $950,000.

Discussion: Skip Murphy, Gilford questions if the Delegation has become efficiently informed in order to vote? Commissioner Chandler said yes, they have had ample information. Greg Goddard said members are very conservative, and we have been doing this for 16 years. Rep. Thomas says the Gunstock Sub-Committee of the Delegation has been very diligent in scrutinizing the figures, and find them quite acceptable. Rep. Wood feels the County has trust in the Gunstock Management. Roll call vote passes 16-0.

Rep. Millham chairs Committee along with Reps. Wood and Tilton, to develop guidelines for Convention members. They are in the process of making a notebook for all Reps. and she distributes an outline of what is being done.

Rep. Wendelboe advises former Rep. Laflamme is about to undergo surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts.

M/Arsenault, S/Pilliod to adjourn 7:45 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted
David H. Russell, Clerk

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Belknap County Delegation
Executive Committee Meeting
September 12, 2008 - 4:00 PM

Present: Reps. Flanders, Tilton, Russell, Millham, Nedeau, Pilliod, and Wood. Commissioners Daigneault, Long, and Boothby. Deb Shackett, Administrator.

Commissioner Daigneault requests transfer of $74,000 from Contingency Fund to a capital appropriation for immediate repair required for Court House archway.

M/Tilton, S/Millham to approve the transfer. Unanimous.

M/Tilton, S/Pilliod to move $20,000 from payroll account to: $10,000 legal expenses, $10,000 to audit expense. Unanimous.

Other Business:

Supreme Court has acknowledged receipt of charges from Lambert and Tardif, but has not yet accepted them.

Discussion occurred regarding the quality of work exhibited by Atty. Dan Mullen of Ransmeier and Spellman law offices in his representation of the County in a recent court case brought by Doug Lambert and Tom Tardif. The Committee agreed to send a letter to the Firm advising that if we should have need in the future, another attorney would be assigned.

The Commissioners, along with Administrator Deb Shackett, proposed two significant changes to the workings of the County Office. The first involves reorganization of job responsibilities, and second the addition of a full time payroll clerk/bookkeeper. The cost of this added person would be $13,985 for the remainder of the budget year, and would be paid for from savings in the payroll account..

M/Pilliod, S/Tilton to reorganize job descriptions and add a full time bookkeeper.

Vote: Unanimous

A review of the County Budget through the 3rd quarter was then held, and the Committee was in agreement. Budget will be posted on-line.

Motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. M/Russell, S/Pilliod. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention Meeting
October 27, 2008 - 7:00 PM
County Complex

Agenda: To interview candidates for Gunstock Area Commissioner.

Present: Reps. Wendelboe, Nedeau, Fladers, Tilton, Allen, Boyce, Clark, Pilliod, Thomas and Russell.

Chairman Nedeau calls meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and gives floor to Gunstock General Manager Greg Goddard. Mr. Goddard explains project for sign and road improvement is on line and ahead of schedule. Should be complete within the week.

We are presently pre-qualified for funding the entrance road bridge scheduled for 2014. Snow guns have arrived and are ready to go into place. New lift will come in well under budget, ticket scanning in place and ready to go on opening day, December 5th.

At 7:15 Rep. Pilliod introduces first interviewee, Chuck Lowth. Chuck is a 10-year veteran of the Commission, and President and CEO of a large landscaping design company. He wants to continue his efforts for the next 5 years. Explains his plans in promoting public/private partnership in developing a four-season resort.

At 7:45 Rep. Pilliod introduces Ms. Cris Blackstone. She would be happy to serve but has no issue with the present Commission. Would bring her administrative skills to the Commission. Feels monthly up-dates are very important, and she can lend a lot of experience in land development issues.

M/Russell, S/Allen to make a decision tonight. Unanimous.

M/Thomas, S/Pilliod to call the question. Unanimous.

M/Boyce, S/Thomas to appoint Chuck Lowth to fill the vacancy. Motion passes 10 to 0.

M/Boyce, S/Thomas to adjourn 8:35 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Meeting with Belknap County Commissioners and County Delegation Executive Committee November 17, 2008 - 5:00 PM, Commissioners Office

Present: Commissioners Long, Daigneault and Boothby
Executive Committee: Nedeau, Millham, Pilliod, Wood and Russell
Staff: Deb Shackett, Angela Bovill

Topic: County Budget

Chairman Nedeau opens meeting at 5 p.m. Calls on Rep. Russell, who brought up the subject of the Commissioners Decision to no longer fund the outside agencies. He expressed his concern with the impact to the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association, as well as most of the other agencies that depend on the County for funding.

Commissioner Daigneault explains they have to borrow money through Tax Anticipation Notes in order to fund Mutual Aid.

Commissioner Boothby says it is not the role of County Government to finance outside agencies and it's up to them to secure their own funding.

Members of the Executive Committee brought their concerns as to the possible demise of several of these agencies.

All agreed that these agencies perform a vital contribution to the County, but there may be some "double dipping", i.e. getting funding from the County and also soliciting support from the towns.

Commissioner Long advised that during his campaign he was in contact with some 250 people, and about 200 knew nothing about County Government.

The Executive Committee felt that this is merely a case of "downshifting" of costs, and will not affect the bottom line of the County Taxpayer.

The Commissioners have agreed to host a public hearing on the issue at the County Complex in cooperation with a request by retired District Court Judge "Bud" Martin this Thursday at 5 p.m.

M/Pilliod, S/Millham Adjourn 6:20 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

County Convention Meeting
County Complex
November 17, 2008 - 7:00 PM

Agenda: The role of the County Delegation
Review of the Right to Know Law (RSA91-A)

Present: Reps. Nedeau, Flanders, Boyce, Millham, Pilliod, Thomas, Morrison and Russell, Reps-Elect Bolster, Swinford, Veazey, St. Cyr, Fields and Stuart, Nancy Smith, Assistant Attorney General, Jim Carroll, Belknap County Attorney

Chairman Nedeau opens meeting at 7 p.m. Rep. Millham introduces and distributes the new manual created by a sub-committee, which she chaired. It contains invaluable information for delegates, both incumbent and newly elected, about their role in County Government. It also has information about the meeting process and the Right to Know Law.

Rep. Thomas advised that there are three new bills to be introduced which may change the statute of RSA 91-A.

Delegation agreed to meet on Monday, December 8, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the County Complex for an organization meeting.

Chairman Nedeau introduces Nancy Smith from the AG's office who made a detailed presentation on the Right to Know Law. A copy is attached.

M/Pilliod, S/Thomas Adjourn 8:35 pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

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David H. Russell, Clerk

Belknap County Convention Meeting
County Complex, December 8, 2008, 7:00 PM

Agenda: Election of Delegation Officers

Attendance: All 18 Convention members present.

Chairman Nedeau calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Representatives introduce themselves.

Nomination of Officers:

Chairman: M/Bolster, S/Boyce nominate Rep. Nedeau. M/Arsenault, S/Merry: nominate Rep. Millham. M/Russell, S/Boyce – close nominations, unanimous voice vote. Results of roll call vote: Millham 10, Nedeau 8. Rep Millham declared new chairman. She thanked Rep. Nedeau for his past service and advised that there is a lot of work ahead of us. She was congratulated by the entire body.

Vice Chairman: M/Nedeau, S/Boyce nominates Rep. Russell. M/Nedeau, S/Flanders – close nomination. Vote Unanimous. Rep. Russell declared Vice Chairman.

Clerk: M/Boyce, S/Merry nominates Rep. Arsenault. M/ Nedeau, S/Flanders, nominate Rep. St. Cyr. M/Swinford, S/Boyce- close nominations. Vote Unanimous. Results of roll call voice vote: Arsenault 12, St. Cyr 6. Rep. Arsenault was declared clerk.

Chairman Millham turns the meeting over to the Commissioners for their budget presentation.

Commissioner Boothby introduces the County Government Department heads, and then proceeded with a power point presentation which showed each department's budget proposal percent increase or decrease and the bottom line as presented to the County Convention. A copy of this is included in the minutes.

Questions and Answers:

Rep. Swinford questions the funding of the Lakes Region Mutual Aid Fire Association. Comm. Boothby responds that the County is not responsible for collect-

ing annual dues from County Towns, but is willing to work out a "phase-in" plan to help towns get on schedule by putting these dues in the individual Fire Dept. budgets. Every year the County must borrow through Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN's) in order to pay its dues until its revenue comes in.

Rep. Wendelboe inquires about the agencies that were not funded. Answer: All these agencies are strong and sound, and capable of being self-funded.

Rep. Pilliod asks, is the County not responsible to pay for charitable cases referred to Genesis? Answer: It's hard to draw the line between who does or doesn't get the funding. The County has no statutory obligation to fund these agencies.

Rep. Johnson asks, are senior included in the funding piece as with the other agencies? Answer: Yes, indirectly.

Chairman Millham opens discussion to the public.

Kurt McGee, Sanbornton asks: Why don't you bill towns bi-annually? Answer: If we were to do that, towns would also have to bill their tax payers more often.

Bruce Papp of Gilford, Advocate for Genesis, has family who would be adversely affected by cuts.

Russ Armstrong, Gilford supports restoring funding to Genesis.

Skip Murphy of Gilford inquires what the amount remaining in the undesignated fund balance? Answer: Balance was $7 million in 2005 before emergency repairs to Nursing Home. Presently at $3.7 million.

Susan Stern, Sanbornton has mental illness in her family and advises that with lack of county support, adequate care cannot be provided. Early detection is vital to proper care and rehabilitation. The lack of communication between mental illness health agencies and the Dept. of Corrections is costing a lot of money.

Doug Lambert, Gilford: Why are we still appropriating $10,000 to the Laconia Airport Authority? Answer: This is the last year of the agreement; next year the line item will go away.

Lisa Morris, Gilford states that Service Link also concerned with the affect of the cuts to Genesis Behavioral Health.

Greg Goddard, Chairman Belknap County Economic Development Council disagrees with the Commissioner's decision to withdraw funding to the Council. He will bring his issues to the sub-committee.

Tom Tardiff, Laconia submits his concerns and questions in writing. Copy enclosed with the minutes.

Gail Ober, Laconia Citizen: There is a new line item for maintenance supervisor, is this a new position. Answer: Yes, but no new hires occurred.

Kurt McGee of Sanbornton questions electricity appropriation. Department heads requested $220,000 and the Commissioners recommended $300,000. This is due to anticipated increases in rates.

Tom Tardiff has searched everywhere and can find no charter or statue mandate to the funding of outside agencies.

Chairman Millham closes the hearing at 8:58 PM. M/Nedeau, S/Pilliod adjourn 9:00 PM. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
David H. Russell, Clerk

Report of the County Commissioners

To the Citizen's of Belknap County

During the budget year 2008, the County's role changed drastically with the implementation of House Bill 2 (HB 2). HB 2 changes the financial relationship between the State and County Governments. Effective July 1, 2008, the County became responsible for an additional 50% of the non-federal share of Intermediate Nursing Care and Home Community Based Care. The State is assuming responsibility for the remainder of the categorical programs, namely, juvenile services to our youth.

While HB (2) does provide a cap on the County's total liability through 2010, the Commissioner's are very concerned about the State's willingness to continue the cap. With the State projecting a deficit in excess of $500 million dollars for the biennium, the County could be left paying for 100% of the ever growing non federal share of Medicaid nursing home costs. Given the large number of baby boomers who will soon require nursing home care, the Commissioner's can visualize a scenario which places significant additional financial burdens upon taxpayers. The Commissioner's intend to work with the County Delegation, Town Selectmen and other local leaders to insure that State leaders fulfill their promises to continue the cap on county expenditures. If you would like more information on this process, we would welcome your participation and can give us a call at (603)-527-5400.

Given the HB 2 change, the potential for an ever increasing unfunded nursing home mandate and difficult economic times felt by all of our residents, the Commissioners tasked all county department heads to be more innovative and work within tighter budgetary constraints. We wanted everyone to return to the County's core responsibilities reflecting the statutorily mandated county services.

As part of this programmatic and budgetary review, the Commissioner's re-evaluated their role in funding agencies outside the realm of core county government responsibilities. This was met with much debate which the Commissioner's appreciated. It is the Commissioners intention to remain fiscally responsible in the prudent management of the County's business during these vulnerable economic times.

The year 2008 also proved to be a year of challenges and change in the structure of Belknap County Government. Four department head changes took place in 2008.

The Commissioners hired a new County Administrator, Debra Shackett. Ms. Shackett will be conducting an ongoing review of every County system, policy and procedure to find ways to improve efficiency and service to our residents. Ms. Shackett has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position and is adapting quickly and readily to this leadership role on the County's Management Team. We are pleased to have her on board.

The Commissioners added a bookkeeping position in the Finance Department in response to the needs of an organization with an annual budget in excess of $25,000,000. This will enhance the financial integrity and sound accounting practices that the Commissioner's and taxpayers expect.

Courtney Marshall was hired as the Nursing Home Administrator in February of 2008. Mr. Marshall came to the County with an impressive background in the nursing home care field and has facilitated successful Medicare Certification for the Belknap County Nursing Home. This certification allows residents to receive more intensive rehabilitation services, presents residents from having to temporarily enter another nursing home after hospitalization and is great source of added revenue for the taxpayers of Belknap County.

Mr. Harold Powell was appointed the Director of Maintenance to Belknap County. This position consolidates all of the maintenance positions into one reporting structure which will provide all County facilities with comprehensive preventative maintenance and ongoing repairs. No stranger to the County, Harold had worked part time at the department of corrections for a number of years running the wood shop program.

Ms. Barbara Luther was appointed the Registrar of Deeds in January of 2008, after the retirement of long time registrar Rachel Normandin. Barbara had been deputy registrar before being elected to office in November 2008. Barbara has the proven skills necessary to maintain the level of professionalism that the Registry of Deeds has consistently displayed as one of the finest Registries in the State.

The Department of Corrections has been at the fore front of developmental changes starting with the implementation of the community bracelet program in early March. The bracelet program allows a transition for inmates to leave the county facility and begin life on the outside while still being under close supervision. The reduction of the number of in-house inmates provides a significant savings to the taxpayers of the County. The Corrections Department also developed a Farm Program this year. The inmates operated a farm stand selling their own produce grown throughout the summer. 1,500 pounds of fresh vegetables were provided

to the Laconia Senior Center, St. Vincent De Paul's, and our own Nursing Home. Additional vegetable sales directly to the public took in a total of $5,100 in sales which directly reduced the amount necessary to be raised through taxation. This was a huge success and provided some great work for the inmates.

Lastly, the Commissioners wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Chairman of the Board, Philip "Bud" Daigneault. Commissioner Daigneault retired at the end of 2008 after spending the last 8 years as a County Commissioner. Mr. Daigneault's career in county government spread over 38 years, starting as deputy sheriff, becoming the first juvenile officer in that department and working his way up to sergeant, then lieutenant and Assistant Sheriff. In 1982, Mr. Daigneault was hired as the County Administrator & Finance Officer. He held that position for 16 years, retiring in 1998. Commissioner Daigneault was elected in 2000 and served two 2-year, and one 4-year term. He has been an invaluable figure in County Government and will be sorely missed. We wish Commissioner Daigneault well and we thank him for his many years of loyal dedicated service.

In closing, the Commissioners would like to acknowledge all of our county employees for their hard work and dedication. We strive to make Belknap County a team of dedicated professionals who work together for the common good of the citizens we serve. Also, our thanks to the Belknap County Convention for their continued support and cooperation in matters of mutual interest in the business of county government.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip P. Daigneault
Christopher D. Boothby
Richard W. Long

FORM MS-42

STATEMENT OF COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS
AND
REVENUE AS VOTED

For: Belknap County

DATE OF CONVENTION: April 1, 2008 Fiscal Year Ending: 12/31/2008

Mailing Address: 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246

Phone #: 603-527-5400 Fax #: 603-527-5409 E-Mail: abovill@co.belknap.nh.us

Prepared by: Philip P. Daigneault, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

This form is also to be used to report the voted appropriations, as required under RSA 24:24, to the Secretary of State and to the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration no later than 30 days after adopting the budget or supplemental appropriation.

CERTIFICATE OF VOTE

This is to certify that the appropriations entered on this form are those voted by the county convention.

Stephen H Nedeau
Chairperson
Stephen H. Nedeau

David H. Russell
Clerk of County Convention
David H. Russell

This form is available on our website: www.nh.gov/revenue

FOR DRA USE ONLY

NH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIVISION
P.O. BOX 487, CONCORD, NH 03302-0487
(603)271-3397

MS-42
Rev. 06/07

1	2	3	4
Acct.#	APPROPRIATIONS	Appropriations as Voted	DRA USE
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxx
4110	County Convention Costs	7,000	
4120	Judicial		
4122	Jury Costs		
4123	County Attorney's Office	506,490	
4124	Victim Witness Advocacy Program	54,641	
4130	Executive	267,550	
4150	Financial Administration	302,318	
4151	Treasurer	3,961	
4153	Other Legal Costs		
4155	Personnel Admin-Citizens Council	253,907	
4191	Planning and Zoning for Uninc.Places		
4192	Medical Examiner	18,000	
4193	Register of Deeds	579,160	
4194	Maintenance of Government Bldg.	403,871	
	Other (specify)		
	PUBLIC SAFETY	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxx
4211	Sheriff's Department	1,979,966	
4212	Custody of Prisoners		
4214	Sheriff's Support Services		
4219	Other Public Safety-RJJ	131,834	
	CORRECTIONS	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxx
4230	Corrections	3,174,507	
4235	Adult Probation and Parole		
4300	County Farm Expense		
	COUNTY NURSING HOME	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxx
4411	Administration	1,281,024	
4412	Operating Expense	8,905,168	
4439	Other Health		
		17,869,397	
		17,869,397	

1	2	3	4
Acct.#	APPROPRIATIONS	Appropriations as Voted	DRA USE
	HUMAN SERVICES	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4442	Direct Assistance		
4443	Board and Care of Children	495,290	
4446	Diversion Program		
4447	Special Outside Services		
	OAA/APTD/INC & Operations	5,267,492	
	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4611	Administration	145,243	
4619	Other Conservation	95,866	
4650	Economic Development	75,000	
	DEBT SERVICE	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4711	Principal Long-Term Bonds/Notes	744,600	
4721	Interest Long-Term Bonds/Notes	263,636	
	Other (TAN's)	120,000	
	INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4800	Intergovernmental-Gunstock	180,916	
	CAPITAL OUTLAY	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4901	Land and Improvements		
4902	Machinery		
4903	Buildings		
4904	Improvements Depreciation	250,000	
	INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4912	To Special Revenue Fund		
4913	To Capital Projects Fund		
4914	To Proprietary-Outside Agency	564,597	
4915	To Capital Reserve Funds		
4916	To Fiduciary-Contingency	100,000	
	Subtotal from Page 2	17,869,397	
	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	26,172,237	

1	2	3
Acct.#	SOURCES OF REVENUES	Estimated Revenue Ensuing Fiscal Year
	ASSESSMENTS/TAXES	xxxxxxxxx
3110	Property Taxes Levied for Unincorporated Places	
3120	Land Use Change Taxes for Unincorporated Places	
3180	Resident Taxes for Unincorporated Places	
3185	Yield Taxes for Unincorporated Places	
3186	Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Unincorporated Places	
3187	Payments in Lieu of Taxes	
3189	Other Taxes	
3191	Penalties on Delinquent Municipal Assessments	
3200	Licenses, Permits, and Fees	
		xxxxxxxxx
3319	REVENUE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
	REVENUE FROM THE STATE OF NH	xxxxxxxxx
3351	Shared Revenue for Unincorporated Places	
3352	Incentive Funds	194,355
3354	Water Pollution Grants	
3355	Housing and Community Development	
3356	State & Fed. Forest Land Reim. in Unincorporated Places	
3359	Other (County Attorney)	55,200
3379	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	
	REVENUES FROM CHARGES FOR SERVICES	xxxxxxxxx
3401	Sheriff's Department	349,500
3402	Register of Deeds	936,700
3403	County Corrections	91,218
3404	County Nursing Homes	7,543,906
3405	County Farm	
3407	Maintenance Department	
3409	Other (Citizens Council)	26,534
	REVENUE FROM MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES	xxxxxxxxx
3501	Property-Gunstock	150000
3502	Interest on Investments	100,000
3503	Rents of Property	254,145
3508	Contributions and Donations-RJJ	10,625
350_	Other (Misc Income & Initiatives)	113,505
350_	Other (Recoveries/Flex/4A1)	74,640
		9,900,328

1	2	5
Acct.#	SOURCES OF REVENUES	Estimated Revenue Ensuing Fiscal Year
	OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES	xxxxxxxxx
3912	Transfer from Special Revenue Funds	
3913	Transfer from Capital Projects Funds	
3914	Transfer from Proprietary Funds	
3915	Transfer from Capital Reserve Funds	
3916	Transfer from Trust and Agency Funds	
3934	Proceeds from Long-Term Notes/Bonds	
	ESTIMATED REVENUE SUBTOTAL from Page 4	9,900,328
	FUND BALANCE TO REDUCE TAX RATE	2,000,000
	TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	11,900,328

BUDGET SUMMARY

Total Voted Appropriations	26,172,237
Total Revenues	11,900,328
Amount Certified to be Raised by Taxes	14,271,909

Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC

Certified Public Accountants

45 Market Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101
(603) 622-7070
FAX: 622-1452

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Commissioners
County of Belknap, New Hampshire

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Belknap, New Hampshire (the County) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Belknap, New Hampshire as of December 31, 2007, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management's discussion and analysis and the budgetary comparison information on pages i-ix and 29-30, respectively, are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County of Belknap, New Hampshire's basic financial statements. The combining nonmajor fund and fiduciary fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining nonmajor fund and fiduciary fund financial statements have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC

June 5, 2008

EXHIBIT C
COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2007

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,132,891	$ 3,342	$ 4,136,233
Investments	52,133		52,133
Accounts receivable, net	124,177		124,177
Due from other governments		200,500	200,500
Due from other funds	2,566,891		2,566,891
Restricted cash and investments	71,343		71,343
Total Assets	$ 6,947,435	$ 203,842	$ 7,151,277
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	$ 655,333		$ 655,333
Accrued expenses	335,765		335,765
Deferred revenue	102,638		102,638
Due to other governments	1,020,841		1,020,841
Due to other funds		$ 200,564	200,564
Payable from restricted assets	71,343		71,343
Total Liabilities	2,185,920	200,564	2,386,484
FUND BALANCES			
Unreserved, reported in:			
General fund	4,761,515		4,761,515
Special revenue funds		3,278	3,278
Total Fund Balances	4,761,515	3,278	4,764,793
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	$ 6,947,435	$ 203,842	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds	4,366,827
Revenues are recognized on an accrual basis in the statement of net assets, not the modified accrual basis	50,000
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. Long-term liabilities at year end consist of:	
Bonds payable	(1,494,600)
Other long-term obligations	(379,250)
Accrued interest on long-term obligations	(17,700)
Compensated absences	(217,778)
Net assets of governmental activities	$ 7,072,292

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

SCHEDULE 1
COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis) - General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Taxes	$ 13,213,199	$ 13,213,199	$ 13,213,199	$ -
Intergovernmental	405,263	405,263	284,128	(121,135)
Charges for services	1,396,157	1,396,157	1,516,113	119,956
Interest income	100,000	100,000	128,858	28,858
Miscellaneous	503,283	503,283	454,479	(48,804)
Total Revenues	15,617,902	15,617,902	15,596,777	(21,125)
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General government	2,594,239	2,545,419	2,236,179	309,240
Public safety	5,605,957	5,647,603	5,461,358	186,245
Health and welfare	5,348,474	5,355,648	5,244,380	111,268
Education and Social Service Agencies	319,420	319,420	319,420	-
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	289,600	289,600	289,600	-
Interest and fiscal charges	189,362	189,362	192,796	(3,434)
Total Expenditures	14,347,052	14,347,052	13,743,733	603,319
Excess revenues over expenditures	1,270,850	1,270,850	1,853,044	582,194
Other financing sources (uses):				
Operating transfers in	150,000	150,000	161,403	11,403
Operating transfers out	(3,920,850)	(3,920,850)	(3,234,227)	686,623
Total other financing sources (uses)	(3,770,850)	(3,770,850)	(3,072,824)	698,026
Excess revenues and other sources over (under) expenditures and other uses	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	(1,219,780)	1,280,220
Fund balance at beginning of year - Budgetary Basis, as restated	5,981,295	5,981,295	5,981,295	-
Fund balance at end of year - Budgetary Basis	$ 3,481,295	$ 3,481,295	$ 4,761,515	$ 1,280,220

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

Report of the Belknap County Attorney

To the Honorable Commissioners, the Legislative Delegation of Belknap County and the Taxpayers of Belknap County:

It continues to be an incredible honor to serve the citizens in Belknap County. The citizens have three diligent and effective attorneys representing the citizens of Belknap and New Hampshire.

The citizens of Belknap County should feel well protected by the men and women of law enforcement agencies of the different communities, as well as the men and women of the Belknap County Sheriff's Department, the New Hampshire State Police, the New Hampshire Marine Patrol, and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Officers. These agencies worked in unison with the County Attorney's Office to provide protection, intervention, and prevention powers so that the communities of the county retain their safety and welfare.

Although the County of Belknap is not immune to the dangers of violent crime and substance abuse fueled by drug dealing, the men and women of Belknap County in law enforcement are fighting the good fight with professionalism, proficiency, and a high-level of competence.

The Belknap County Attorney's Office offers 24/7 response to the needs of area agencies, from advise on police procedures in solving crimes, support in prosecuting not only cases that will be in the County Attorney's office, but also to support those agencies at the District Court level, and dealing with a plethora of other civil and criminal issues.

The Belknap County Attorney's Office provided legal support to the Belknap County Legislative Delegation during the appointments of a new County Sheriff and a new Registrar of Deeds by legal advocacy in the Belknap County Superior Court.

For eleven months of the year 2008, the County Attorney and two assistants served the office in this County. During the year 2008, the office presented 508 indictments to Grand Juries sitting every six weeks. That presentation occurred after the Office reviewed approximately 567 felony referrals from local law enforcement agencies.

The Grand Jury process is used primarily for the review by a group of peers, citizens of the County, to insure that there is probable cause to implement the crimi-

nal process against an individual. The indictment, itself, is only the mechanism to implement the process.

Although the Grand Jury process is primarily utilized for the purposes of that above review, the process is also utilized to review investigations, which may be on-going. The County Attorney's office did utilize that process in that fashion during the year 2008.

The Office returned one of only a few successful prosecutions for Sale of a Narcotic Drug with Death Resulting. The case involved four different defendants and resulted in lengthy prison terms for three of the individuals. The cases spoke firmly about the County's and communities concern about drug abuse and, particularly, illegal methadone usage. The prosecution's cases were greatly aided by the County's alliance with local jurisdictions in the Methadone Task Force.

The County Attorney's Office is readily available to the State Medical Examiners for consults on untimely deaths. The County Attorney was consulted directly on 70 occasions. Of central issue in these notices, is whether or not there is suspicion surrounding the passing of an individual. An extraordinary spike has been observed in the untimely deaths of young people in our communities. Many of these passings were causally related to drug overdoses. The County Attorney's office is presently prosecuting two cases involving the untimely death of a young person from a drug overdose.

The Office also handled 113 Probation Violations. These events are generated by the actions of defendants who have been placed on Probation following the dispositions of their cases in court. There is a wide range of events which may cause these violations to be presented to the Court - further criminal behaviors by the Defendant, failures of the Defendants to maintain their rehabilitative efforts, etc.

The Office handled 18 misdemeanor appeals. The criminal justice system in New Hampshire accords a defendant an opportunity to a jury trial upon a finding of guilty in the District Court.

The Office continues to have their victim/witness coordinator work with victims and witnesses from pre-indictment stages of a case, through trial and beyond for each of our cases. The coordinator works directly with the prosecution team as the trial proceeds and maintains the highest level of communication with victims and witnesses. Long after the trials have ended, the coordinator continues to monitor the parole processes of defendants and notices the defendant's victims of such developments. The coordinator is also critical to the maintaining of ac-

curate restitution figures and communicating with probation and parole to insure the flow of restitution.

It has been the County Attorney's desire to maintain our attorneys' connection with the community. The Victim/Witness advocate continues to devote volunteer time with the Child Advocacy Center at the Community Action Program building on Route 106 in Laconia. The Center offers a unified and coordinated interview process of victims without the former multiple interviews that befell the investigative process. The present interview system is a team approach with members of law enforcement investigative teams, members of the NH Division of Children, Youth and Families, and members of the prosecution team at the County Attorney's office.

In this community effort, the Assistant County Attorney Barnes dedicates hours to the local Domestic Violence Prevention Council in addressing issues, which arise systemically and institutionally.

Further, the County Attorney continues his dedication to the youth needs of the region with a present focus at creating a region wide model of providing pre-court services for children and families in crisis. He is also serving upon a committee, which is addressing the question of a need for additional mental health considerations for our citizens whose behaviors become troubling.

The County Attorney, upon entering office, wrote the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections requesting consideration of the alternative disposition process utilized in many counties - The Academy Program. This disposition works intensively with Defendants for nearly 18 months to create changes in behavioral decision-making resulting in their return to the communities as a contributing citizen. Failure to effect that change results in the defendant's imposition of a State Prison sentence. The Defendant must be adjudged a non-violent offender.

The County Attorney is attempting to implement a cost effective transition program between the District and Superior courts which will address through sanctions, the implementation of rehabilitative efforts by the Defendant to become employed full-time, deal with substance abuse issues and to continue or complete their educations so that their competencies for future success can be raised.

The County Attorney is looking forward to implementing a volunteer program for citizens who wish to contribute their time and energies in supporting a meaningful team at the office, in protecting our communities, and in promoting safer and healthier communities to live in. The County Attorney's office is presently

working with the Community Action Program to give volunteer opportunities to their clients. The County Attorney has utilized three college interns over the past year to introduce them to the duties of the office while giving great support to the office's team.

The Office continues to have an open door policy for inquiries from the citizens of Belknap County on any number of issues. The Office continues to commit itself to successful prosecution, but also successful change in the lives of Defendants to return them to the communities to contribute in the same fashion as each one of our citizens do on a regular basis.

Respectfully Submitted,
James M. Carroll, IV

Department of Corrections

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County,

The past year has been a lesson in the unpredictability of inmate populations and adapting to fluctuations that we cannot control. Our average daily population dropped from 92 to 90. While this may seem like a small difference, there was a marked shift in why inmates were processed into the facility. After several years of steadily declining bookings for Intoxication, there was a significant jump in 2008, 896 versus 689 in 2007. Other statistics of note: total bookings was 2038 compared to 1971 in 2007, female bookings up 37 to 408 and the average length of stay for sentenced inmates was 92 days.

While overcrowding in the general housing areas was not necessarily the issue it has been in recent years, the real challenge was in appropriate housing for a larger number of "special needs" inmates. This includes weekend sentences, observation/segregation for medical or psychiatric reasons, and type of offense and co-defendant issues. Every available space suited to those needs was utilized to its' maximum capability by the staff.

There were two capital improvement projects completed this year. The twenty year old camera monitoring and recording system received a long overdue upgrade. The system, which used a VHS tape to record a 24 hour period, had deteriorated to a point where the images were barely recognizable and became a safety and security issue of high priority. The new system doubled the amount of cameras and records digitally onto a DVD. It has already proved invaluable in observing and recording several incidents involving inmate assaults, rules infractions and inmate damage to County property. The second completed project added sprinklers to the House of Correction basement. Built in 1971, it was the last unsprinklered area in the facility. With this life safety improvement, it is hoped that this existing space will be used in the future as some form of program space without the major cost of an addition.

Despite a rain soaked spring that caused the loss of a number of plantings, the fledgling Farm Program had a successful season. The farm stand was well received by the general public and we developed a regular clientele. We were also invited to attend the Belknap County 4-H Fair, where much to the delight of the event organizers, all the produce harvested that week was sold. At the conclusion of the growing season, we had sold $5100.00 in produce and had donated another 1500 pounds to the Nursing Home, the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and the Laconia Senior Center. Not forgetting the reason for this program, it kept a

number of inmates off their bunks, learning about responsibility, dealing with the public at the farm stand and marveling at seeing the results of their hard work.

The Community Corrections Program under Corrections Officer Don Lemay, after its first full year, has proven a valuable and worthwhile addition to the department. More inmates entered the Work Release Program than ever before. Of 56 inmates that applied for the program, 35 were approved and found employment. From that, the County derived income from room and board charges ($22,311.00 in '08 vs. $11,485.00 in '07) and other payments were made for court fines, child support and the Office of Cost Containment. After a period of time in the Work Release Program, inmates can apply for the Electronic Monitoring Program and 11 inmates were approved and participated. Raw savings just for those 11 in food, laundry and revenue amounted to $25,545.00. While intended for sentenced inmates, in three specific instances, pre-trial inmates were placed on the bracelet for medical reasons. While hard to measure, I believe tens of thousands of dollars were saved in medical costs to the County.

Program highlights 1/01/08 thru 12/31/08 as reported by Programs Director Jan Best:

Belknap County Correctional Industries
$1,690.43 gross wages paid
10 inmates employed

Substance Abuse Programming
-Alcoholics Anonymous
158 inmates have attended
-Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (ADAPT)
(This grant's criteria allows only incarcerated individuals who will be able to complete the program to participate.)
41 inmates have participated
-Drugs of Addiction video series and discussion groups
17 inmates have participated

GED Program, Southeastern Regional Educational Services Center, + Inspiration *SERESC + Inspiration provided tutorial services to educationally disabled inmates under the age of 21 through a state-funded grant program. (As of November 1st of this year, the state is no longer funding tutorial services. Local school districts are once again responsible for providing tutors for their coded students when these students are incarcerated.)
30 inmates have participated

13 have earned high school equivalency certificates
2 have tested and failed to earn a certificate
5 inmates are currently preparing (4 will test mid-January)
9 inmates were released or transferred,werenon-compliant, or stopped participating during the preparation phase
1 is involved in high school credit recovery (tutor provided by district)

Supplemental Programming

28 inmates participated in Planning Ahead/Staying Ahead (food, nutrition, fitness, and money management)
17 inmates participated in Parenting Skills
27 inmates participated in Communication and Conflict Resolution

As required in RSA 30:3 the following statistics outline the number of prisoners in each category of offenses:

Pretrial Charges 2008

1st degree assault	9
1st degree murder	1
2nd degree murder	1
2nd degree assault	12
Aggravated DWI	7
Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault	8
Armed Robbery	1
Arson	4
Bail jumping	13
Breach of Bail Conditions	17
Burglary	19
Carrying a weapon	1
Conduct after an accident	10
Contempt of court	20
Conspiracy to commit robbery	2
Conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine	1
Conspiracy to sell a narcotic drug	1
Criminal Liability for the conduct of another	2
Criminal mischief	38
Criminal threatening	26
Criminal trespassing	14
Disobeying a P.O.	14
Disorderly conduct	18
Driving without a license	1
Duty to report as a sex offender	4
DWI	38

Endangering the welfare of a child	1
Escape	1
Facilitating an underage house party	1
Failure to appear	89
False imprisonment	1
False report to law enforcement official	1
False swearing	2
Falsifying physical evidence	1
Felon in possession of a weapon	3
Felonious sexual assault	5
Forgery	25
Fraudulent use of a credit card	4
Fugitive from justice	13
Habitual offender	9
Harassment	6
Hindering apprehension	3
Issuing bad checks	10
Negligent homicide	1
Non-support	83
Obstructing government administration	2
Obstructing report of a crime	6
Operating after suspension	67
Parole violation	29
Possession of burglary tools	1
Possession of cocaine	3
Possession a controlled drug	71
Possession of a controlled drug/intent	6
Possession of drug paraphernalia	3
Possession of a narcotic drug	24
Possession of a narcotic drug with intent	5
Possession of slugs	1
Possession of a weapon	1
Probation violation	75
Protective order violation	64
Prowling	2
Receiving stolen property	21
Reckless conduct	8
Reckless operation	5
Resisting arrest	38
Robbery	4
Sale of a controlled drug	6
Sale of a narcotic drug	4

Sale of narcotic drug (death resulting)	1
Shoplifting	18
Simple assault	102
Simple assault on a P.O.	9
Speeding	1
Stalking	1
Taking without owners consent	3
Theft by deception	1
Theft by unauthorized taking	30
Theft of services	2
Unauthorized use of a propelled vehicle	5
Unlawful possession of alcohol	19
Unsworn falsification	1
Welfare fraud	2
Willful concealment	6

Sentenced Charges 2008

2nd degree assault	5
Abandoning a wounded human being	1
Aggravated Felonious sexual assault	1
Aggravated DWI	7
Arson	1
Bail Jumping	1
Burglary	13
Child Pornography	11
Conduct after an accident	2
Contempt of court	2
Conspiracy to commit armed robbery	1
Criminal mischief	8
Criminal threatening	6
Criminal trespassing	6
Criminal restraint	1
Disobeying a P.O.	2
Disorderly conduct	1
DWI	57
Failure to register as a sex offender	5
False report to law enforcement official	1
Felon in possession of a weapon	1
Forgery	4
Fraudulent use of a credit card	7
Habitual offender	9
Hindering apprehension	1
Indecent exposure	1
Internal possession of alcohol	1
Issuing bad checks	1

Manufacture of marijuana	1
Obstruction of Government administration	2
Operating after suspension	22
Possession of cocaine	14
Possession of a controlled drug	18
Possession of a controlled drug with intent	1
Possession of heroin	1
Possession of marijuana	2
Possession of marijuana with intent	1
Possession of methamphetamine	1
Possession of a narcotic drug	6
Possession of a narcotic drug with intent	1
Probation violation	18
Protective order violation	3
Reckless conduct	4
Receiving stolen property	5
Resisting arrest	6
Shoplifting	4
Simple assault	41
Theft by deception	3
Theft of services	1
Theft by unauthorized taking	22
Unlawful possession of alcohol	3
Unauthorized fill in wetlands	1
Violation of a court order	1
Welfare fraud	5
Willful concealment	3

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the staff and the good work they do in difficult situations. It is because of them that the Belknap County Department of Corrections maintains the excellent reputation it has, both among the public and their peers in corrections throughout the state.

My thanks to the Convention for their continued support and the interest they have exhibited in the Dept. of Corrections this year. I would also like to thank the Commissioners for their assistance, guidance and the open communication we have enjoyed in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
R.A. Grenier
Superintendent

Belknap County Health and Human Services

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

The following report is submitted for the Belknap County Human Service Department for the year 2008, detailing by town/city the number of clients served and the dollars expended in State mandated programs serving youth, elderly and disabled residents.

In the 2007 session of the General Court, the legislature passed HB2 that changed the financial relationship between the State and County governments. Effective 7/1/2008 the County will be responsible for 100% of the non-federal share of Intermediate Nursing Care and Home and Community Based Care, with the State assuming responsibility for the remainder for the categorical programs.

RSA 166 Aid to County Assisted Persons
County reimburses the State for 50% of the cost for Old Age Assistance and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled.

RSA 167-18f : Local Medical Assistance Contribution
County reimburses the State $27.00 for each Old Age recipient and $52.00 for each Disabled recipient.

Old Age Assistance

Town/City	# Cases	Expenditure
Alton	8	$2,749
Barnstead	7	$1,503
Belmont	12	$3,261
Center Harbor	1	$83
Gilford	2	-$1,158
Gilmanton		
Laconia	35	$17,612
Meredith	4	$537
New Hampton		
Sanbornton		
Tilton	6	$1,701
Total	75	$26,287

Aid to the Permanently & Totally Disabled

Town/City	# Cases	Expenditure
Alton	14	$5,496
Barnstead	16	$7,148
Belmont	41	$22,344
Center Harbor	5	$1,708
Gilford	42	$28,422
Gilmanton	13	$7,692
Laconia	205	
$106,192		
Meredith	32	$20,325
New Hampton	14	$9,229
Sanbornton	8	$5,674
Tilton	31	$14,512
Total	421	$228,741

RSA 167:18-b Reimbursement of Funds for Persons Eligible to Receive Nursing Home Services.

County reimburses the State for 25% for the cost of recipients of Nursing Home Care and those in alternative settings to placement in a Nursing Facility. Effective 7/1/2008 this increased to 50%.

Intermediate Nursing Care

Town/City	# Cases	Expenditure
Alton	21	$225,692
Barnstead	9	$120,411
Belmont	42	$434,209
Center Harbor	3	$33,808
Gilford	26	$286,419
Gilmanton	14	$176,261
Laconia	117	$1,478,221
Meredith	41	$460,224
New Hampton	5	$69,083
Sanbornton	8	$55,843
Tilton	24	$292,517
Total	310	$3,632,688

Home Care Community Based

Town/City	# Cases	Expenditure
Alton	12	$59,270
Barnstead	7	$55,326
Belmont	25	$141,124
Center Harbor	1	$7,883
Gilford	10	$122,061
Gilmanton	5	$26,253
Laconia	61	$245,099
Meredith	13	$51,538
New Hampton	4	$29,100
Sanbornton	9	$42,463
Tilton	15	$76,303
Total	162	$856,420

Provider Payments

Town/City	# Cases	Expenditure
Alton	29	$12,013
Barnstead	13	$5,006
Belmont	56	$34,982
Center Harbor	4	$1,893
Gilford	31	$27,045
Gilmanton	20	$10,216
Laconia	143	$111,173
Meredith	44	$18,591
New Hampton	8	$6,955
Sanbornton	13	$4,517
Tilton	35	$20,963
Total	396	$253,354

RSA 169-B Delinquent, 169-C Child Protection Act and 169-D Children in Need of Services

County reimburses the State up to 25% of the costs incurred for services to children and their families.

Care of Children

Town/City	# Cases	Expen-
ditures		
Alton	8	$7,833
Barnstead	14	$10,275
Belmont	37	$68,736
Center Harbor	1	$12,232
Gilford	18	$30,769
Gilmanton	4	$11,659
Laconia	154	
$186,404		
Meredith	12	$22,818
New Hampton	8	$22,241
Sanbornton	2	$5,462
Tilton	14	$26,752
Total	272	
$405,181		

Under each juvenile statute listed above, the County is authorized to collect on behalf of the State, payments from persons chargeable by law for the minors support.

Parental Reimbursement collected by the County for 2008 $65,833.89

Incentive Funds received annually since 1986 from the Division of Children, Youth and Families, for the purpose of encouraging the development of community based diversion and alternative disposition programs, were awarded to the following:
The Appalachian Mountain Teen Project/Riverland Youth Initiative
Community Health & Hospice, Pediatric Care Management
Youth Assistance Program of Northfield, Tilton and Sanbornton
Youth Services Bureau, Court Diversion & UPSWING Program
Girls, Inc.
The Circle Program
Belknap County Restorative Justice Department
The TIME Program of Winnisquam Regional Middle School
The Boys & Girls Club of the Lakes Region
Ozanam Place
Copper Cannon Camp
Elementary School Attendance Coordinator, LSD

Memorial Middle Attendance Coordinator, LSD
Laconia High School Attendance Coordinator, LSD
Greater Child Advocacy Center

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the support of my staff and to thank the Belknap County Delegation as well as the Commissioners, for their cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol N. Schonfeld
Human Services Administrator

Report of the Nursing Home

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

The year, 2008, was a transition year for the Belknap County Nursing Home with the appointment in February of two experienced healthcare professionals, Courtney Marshall and Dianne Roberts, to the top leadership positions, Administrator and Director of Nurses. With the management team in place and the promotion of Carolee DeRoche to Food Service Director, Denise Langlois to Purchasing Coordinator, and Kathy Peverly to Admissions Director, several important initiatives were successfully accomplished in 2008.

Hiring licensed nurses to fill staff positions at BCNH during the spring of 2008, Dianne Roberts, DON, was able to end the use of contract agency nurses in May 2008. The positive impacts of having County employees fill these vacant positions are a cost savings to the County, higher quality care for BCNH residents, consistent staffing and a higher level of employee responsibility and accountability. Ms. Roberts intends to continue to refrain from accessing contract nurses in 2009 and has canceled all contracts with these agencies.

Annual State and Federal Licensing Survey began in March 2008 with a follow-up survey in May 2008. The facility received six deficiencies of relatively moderate to minor scope and severity. Through an acceptable plan of correction BCNH cleared all deficiencies in the follow-up survey. The State conducted one complaint survey in 2008 which was quickly resolved to the satisfaction of State authorities.

In February 2008 BCNH began the application process to become a dually certified Medicare skilled nursing facility and on September 1, 2008 achieved this status. During the last four months of 2008 we were able to bill Medicare approximately $ 250,000 for both Medicare Part A and B services provided to our residents. We are providing ongoing training and support programs to our staff in the areas of admissions, billing, documentation, nursing and rehabilitation services all covered under the Medicare program. Synertx Rehabilitation Services, our contract therapy service, has added two additional therapists to the Belknap County Nursing Home contingent to provide increased rehabilitation services to our residents.

BCNH eliminated one full-time receptionist position at the request of the Commissioners in October 2008 and reorganized its business office functions around that change under the leadership of Deb Laflamme, Nursing Home Human Re-

sources Director. New job descriptions for the Medicare/Medicaid billing position were developed and the Admissions Office was split off from the Social Services Department.

After using the consulting services of Landmark Healthcare during the first quarter of 2008, BCNH discontinued the contract saving the County considerable dollars in consulting fees. The dietary management services contract with Fitz, Vogt Associates was discontinued in June of 2008 also saving the County management fees.

Overall resident census remained strong with an average 98% occupancy. The Admissions Department maintains a working waiting list of referrals and prospective Belknap County Nursing Home residents. The nursing home's reputation as a quality long term healthcare facility has significantly improved in the past year creating a higher demand for our services.

Belknap County Nursing Home has a strong safety and risk management program and Charlotte Flanagan, Staff Development Coordinator, arranged for in house supervisory training through Primex in the summer of 2008. Belknap County Nursing Home employees participated in a number of State and County Association workshops related to regulation, reimbursement and personnel management issues in the healthcare setting throughout the year under Ms. Flanagan's guidance.

In 2009 Belknap County Nursing Home intends to improve upon the gains made in 2008, promoting quality resident care, a supportive and safe place to work for our employees and a cost conscious operation that spends County tax dollars wisely.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney A. Marshall
NHA

Belknap County Registry of Deeds

To The Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

The Registry continues to be witness to the economic downturn in our Country. During 2008 we recorded 3,242 less documents than in 2007. We were able to provide the County with a total of $817,313.00 from our four revenue sources. We received a total of 232 foreclosures, exactly double the number for 2007. Interestingly, that is a smaller number than during 1992. We are hearing some encouraging news from attorneys and abstractors that business in picking up a bit for them; we know that will slowly trickle down to our office.

In spite of the economy, our website usage continues to grow. We now have about 570 internet accounts. Our easy-to-use site is viewed many, many times a day; and users' printing from their offices continues to be a major source of income for the County. Our revenue from copies made for the public was $142,000.00.

July 1, 2008 was the first day of the LCHIP legislation. LCHIP is: Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. Under this law, four types of documents are charged an additional $25.00 fee - they are deeds, mortgages, mortgage discharges and plans. The
Registry is the collecting agency for the State and we retain a 4% commission as payment.
These State funds are used to provide matching grants to New Hampshire communities to conserve and protect historic resources. Passage of this legislation took over two years of discussions between legislators and the Registers of Deeds.

This year our Registry has operated with five full-time staff members and one part-time staff member - totaling 193 years of Registry of Deeds experience. We saved the County considerable money with the smaller staff - but continued to serve the public in the same professional, courteous manner as always - and maintained our reputation as the best Registry of Deeds in the State.

I am very proud to have been elected Register in November. I look forward to serving the citizens of Belknap County for the next two years. Once again, thank you to my friend and mentor, Rachel Normandin.

I cannot close without thanking my staff - Judith McGrath, June Martel, Carol Morin, Sue Gagne and Saralee Wheeler - for their dedication to the office and their support of me.

Barbara R. Luther
Register of Deeds

Belknap County Sheriff's Department
2008 County Report

Craig Wiggin – Sheriff
Lieutenant Christopher Cost – Operations Commander
Sergeant Thomas Alden – Civil Division Supervisor
Sergeant William Robarge – Criminal Division Supervisor
Sergeant Donald Belyea – Court Security Supervisor
Suzanne Hankard – Communications Director

"A tradition of excellence in County law enforcement for over a century."

By state law, the Sheriff's Department is a full-service law enforcement agency like any other in New Hampshire. However, the Office of the Sheriff is responsible for additional duties that are unique to the Sheriff and his Deputies. The members of the Belknap County Sheriff's Department carry out these duties in a highly professional and efficient manner. I am pleased to present this summary of our activities for 2008.

CIVIL PROCESS
Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 104, the Sheriff is responsible for service and execution of all writs and precepts within the County. The type of process ranges from subpoenas to the execution of a Sheriff's Sale on real estate or physical property. Standard fees for service and related mileage are also prescribed by statute and are charged to the requestor.

TOTAL CIVIL PROCESSES SERVED:	4,134
FEES COLLECTED/RETURNED TO THE COUNTY:	$104,312.35

PRISONER TRANSPORTS
The department is responsible for the transportation of persons incarcerated anywhere in the state and beyond, who are ordered to appear in a court of jurisdiction within the county. The Sheriff is also required to transport persons to NH Hospital or another appropriate facility pursuant to any Involuntary Emergency Admission proceedings.

TOTAL TRANSPORTS:	1,592

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL ARRESTS

As prescribed by RSA 104, the Sheriff is required to execute orders of the Courts, which include civil, criminal, and contempt orders of arrest. The Sheriff is required to take such persons into custody and bring them before the Court.

Civil/Contempt Orders, Laconia Family Division:	129
Criminal/Bench Warrants, District and Superior Courts	210
Civil Orders	147
Mittimus	1
TOTAL ARRESTS	487

OUT OF STATE EXTRADITIONS/RENDITIONS

The Department's Warrant Officer coordinates the extradition or rendition (return) of defendants that have fled the jurisdiction of the state and have failed to appear on charges that involve serious criminal offenses. Extraditions are pursued under the authority of the County Attorney and the NH Attorney General's Office when a Governor's Warrant is required.

TOTAL EXTRADITIONS:	34

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Criminal Division conducts investigations throughout the County, often providing technical or specialized assistance to smaller departments. Detectives regularly work in conjunction with other county, state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies on cases that involve multiple jurisdictions. The Criminal Division provides Forensic Polygraph services as well as referrals from across the County involving bad checks.

FORENSIC POLYGRAPH EXAMS:	41
BAD CHECK CASES INVESTIGATED:	30
RESTITUTION RETURNED TO VICTIMS:	$7,681.42

JUVENILE SERVICES

The Sheriff's Department assists area law enforcement agencies with the investigation, presentation, and prosecution of juvenile cases that allege serious criminal matters, including the utilization of diversion and alternative sentencing programs such as Restorative Justice. 28 juvenile cases were managed in 2008.

COURT SECURITY

The Sheriffs are required to provide security at the various state courts within their respective Counties. For us, this includes the Belknap Superior Court, Probate Court, and the Laconia Family Division. The Sheriff is also responsible for custody and control of prisoners appearing at the Laconia District Court. The latter duties are performed with the cooperation of Sheriff's Deputies, Court Security Officers, and the Bailiffs of the Administrative Office of the Courts. A significant part of the responsibilities of the Court Security Staff is screening persons entering the facility to ensure that no dangerous or illegal weapons, materials, or devices are brought into a Court House in violation of state law or court rules. A summary of items screened is shown below:

ITEM	TOTAL
FIREARM	1
AMMO / ROUNDS	0
AMMO CLIPS /MAGAZINES	1
KNIVES	413
UTILITY KNIFE	9
RAZOR	6
SCISSORS	27
KNITTING NEEDLES	0
SAFETY PINS	3
HANDCUFF KEYS	24
BRASS KNUCKLES	0
THROWING STAR	0
KUBATON	15
MACE / CHEMICAL AGENTS	15
SCREW DRIVER	23
WRENCH	0
VISE GRIPS	0
LEATHERMAN / MULTI-TOOL	40
P-38	20
SYRINGE	0
CHAIN	0
NAIL FILE	47
WIRE CUTTER	0
UMBRELLA	3
OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS	73
TASER/STUN GUN	1

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications center provides services for the police departments of nine towns in Belknap County. Communications services are also provided to the Northfield Police Department on a contractual basis. In addition to the local towns, the communications center takes telephone calls and provides dispatch services for the local Fish and Game Officers, Liquor Investigators, Medical Examiners, and the County Attorney's Office. The communications center is a central hub for the dissemination of vital information to the various public safety agencies throughout the County and beyond.

CALLS FOR SERVICE PROCESSED:	36,319
TELEPHONE/RADIO TRANSMISIONS PROCESSED:	68,759

Photo of Sheriff, Deputies, and Court Security personnel at the Belknap Superior Court

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Belknap County Sheriff's Department, I wish to offer my thanks to the County Commissioners, the County Delegation, and the citizens of Belknap County for their support. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig H. Wiggin
Sheriff
2008 Belknap County Annual Report

Restorative Justice

2008 was a difficult year for the Restorative Justice Program. We were in jeopardy of losing our funding for 2009. A poor economy combined with confusion over the consequences of HB2 led to some tough budget choices. It was rewarding to see the community support for the Restorative Justice program that led to our funding being restored. We will be working in two areas in 2009 that hopefully will help us leverage some State funding for the Restorative Justice program. We will be represented on a Legislative study commission to study the juvenile court diversion law RSA 169-B: 10. The Restorative Justice program will offer assistance and full cooperation to Judge Willard Martin and Senator Sgambatti in their work looking at State funding for community based diversion programs.

We worked with a total of 69 juvenile offenders in 2008. The youth completed 1,578 hours of community service and the program collected $1,103 in restitution for victims.

Our volunteers continue to be very generous with their time and are always there to help when the youth or we need them. All of our volunteers are a tremendous asset to the Program by helping victims of crime, juvenile offenders and being involved in community service projects. Our volunteers are why we can do so much in the community and keep our costs low.

The Restorative Justice Program allows victims and the community to speak freely about how crime affects them. It strengthens the juvenile offender's relationship with the community. Our program allows the juvenile to see the damage caused by their crime and lets them openly apologize for their actions. We are looking forward to another year of working with victims of crime, juvenile offenders, and the community to repair the harm caused by crime.

Our Restorative Justice Program uses community service as a way of holding juveniles accountable for what they have done and as a way of repairing the harm caused by their crime. We are always looking for meaningful community service projects. Meaningful community service projects are either restorative to the victim or the community, allows the juvenile to have a positive interaction with his/her community, teaches the juvenile a new skill or builds a positive relationship with an adult.

We would like to thank the people that help us provide opportunities for community service projects. Some of the 80 different community service projects the youth worked on in 2008 were Service Link, The Boys & Girls Club of the Lakes

Region, Catholic Charities, Good Shepard Lutheran Church, area senior centers, New Beginnings Crisis Center, The Turkey plunge, and Sargent Park. The youth in the Restorative Justice program also worked with the Belknap County Master Gardener program of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. The youth worked with Master Gardeners at a fundraiser in Tilton, at the Belknap County Nursing Home, the Belmont Mill and at the Rotary Riverside Park next to the Belknap Mill in Laconia. These are just some examples of what the youth in the program are working on.

If you have any ideas for meaningful community service projects or if you would like to volunteer with the program, please contact us. We are always looking for opportunities for the youth to help the communities in Belknap County.

We would like to thank the County Commissioners, the County Delegation, and the Belknap County Incentive Funds for their continued support.

Brian J. Loanes, Executive Director
John M. Egan, Community Service Coordinator

Belknap County Annual Maintenance Report

Introduction

The year 2008 has been a very productive year throughout the county facilities. Many changes, repairs and improvements were made in all departments that made a difference in terms of efficiency and safety. New monthly "Maintenance Meetings" were instituted and all county maintenance departments participated with positive results. Inter-departmental labor sharing was instituted by the Director and has worked out well this year. Brainstorming ideas proved to be a positive side effect of these meetings. All maintenance personnel were placed under the authority of the Director of Maintenance and all decisions are made from that office. This is a new concept and is currently in the growing stages but working out well.

This year the county entered into a program offered by PSNH called "Smart Start" which is an energy efficient incentive program to make it possible for municipalities to make certain changes in their current facility lighting. This program will facilitate a substantial savings to the current electric usage by the county (at least a 25% reduction guaranteed by PSNH). Present hardware is replaced with "high performance electronic ballasts and fluorescent tubes" by outside electrical contractors with the cost of materials and installation shared 50/50 between the county and PSNH. The costs are amortized over a payback period of about 2.5 to 3 years on average, depending upon cost of installation at each department. Belknap County is the first county in New Hampshire to participate in this program and we encourage other counties to follow our lead. When the project was completed at the courthouse, we realized a savings of over $1100.00 the first month. Currently we are retrofitting all the lighting at our correctional facility and expect to be finished on or around the first of the New Year. We expect a more substantial savings at the jail with the retrofitting at a larger scale.

Courthouse

We secured a bid and contracted for a new fire exit door (the dumpster end of courthouse) at the end of last year. The door was replaced in March along with the frame and threshold, which were rotted beyond repair. The old drain near the outside of the door threshold was determined to be inadequate to provide proper run-off of rainwater and a change needed to be made in order to keep water from entering the building as it has in the past. We secured a bid and contracted for a new catch basin. A commercial city culvert was installed and has worked fine all

year. The carpet project (removal of moldy, damp worn carpets) was continued from last year in the courthouse basement area and is currently at 90% completion.

Several carpentry projects using inmate labor were accomplished in the basement of the courthouse. Shelving was built for winter storage of air conditioners and fans, and general storage of air system filters, pipe insulation, and supplies. Walls were patched, sanded, waterproofed, and painted which provided additional storage in previously non-usable rooms. This gave expansion to maintenance areas previously unusable to store vacuums, floor polishers, buffers, and miscellaneous supplies more securely. Also one special room was refurbished to house files for the Human Service Department securely under lock and key. A large workbench was donated and installed in the shop area and has proved to be valuable to the staff. A secure key cabinet was built and most all keys in the courthouse were identified and placed in the cabinet. This proved to be a monumental process but quite necessary for the security and safety of the building.

Changes were made to the main door in the Assistant County Attorney's office. Existing door was removed and a Dutch type door and lock were installed to make the office more secure and to limit walk-in traffic. A special custom desk was built and installed for the new S.P.O.T.S. terminal and locks were installed to both access doors for security. An oak deacon's bench in the Registry of Deeds and a public bench outside the office was sanded and refinished. A new carpet was installed in the main elevator.

Another important project was completed at the courthouse this year. The "Old Front Entrance Arch Way" was deteriorating and needed restoration. It was a project that was unique in that the old architecture of the building needed to be preserved as close to original with out generating excessive cost. The courthouse has a significant historical value to our county and must be preserved as best we can being good stewards of the county trust. All granite and brick joints were repaired and re-pointed and a new roof was installed. The deck was replaced with textured concrete and the granite stairs pointed. We were able to save the old oak door by laminating the bottom, scraping and staining its exterior using inmate labor. This practice has served both the inmates and county providing an outlet for repaying a debt, a way to practice carpentry skills, and at the same time realizing a substantial savings to the county. We were able to repair a small roof over the rear entrance of the courthouse and re-finish several large exterior window frames using inmate labor as well.

Changes were also made in the boiler room. We added an additional step and a new ramp for safety and secured loose bricks in the floor. A new high-temperature sump pump was added to the condensate function of the boiler to facilitate a safer expulsion of high temperature condensation.

Corrections Facility

The camera system at the jail was updated and several new cameras were installed for clearer visibility and security in problem areas. The maintenance department worked in conjunction with the outside video contractor running over one thousand feet of CAT 5 cable throughout the whole facility and installing electrical boxes to house the new cameras. Additional cable was installed for computer changes and upgrades and lines were run to a new ATM machine in the foyer of the building.

An addition was made to the existing sprinkler system with the installation of coverage to the basement area under the House of Corrections. A closed-in wire mesh area was installed in the HOC to facilitate protection of shower drainage pipes coming down from the women's dorm. This area will also be utilized for storage of mattresses, bedding, and related items. The women's dorm shower floor was replaced and several major plumbing projects were completed in the house of corrections areas.

A new VCT floor was installed in S-20 educational and visiting room using an inmate that was a qualified floor installer. A few days later, personnel from the courthouse waxed, polished and burnished the new floor under our new departmental labor-sharing program.

Nursing Home-Sheriff's Department-Commissioner's Office-UNH Extension Service

A new monitoring maintenance program was instituted at the Nursing Home to enable us to comply with State of New Hampshire regulations on Underground Storage Tanks by using a Veeder-Root electronic monitoring system and annual inspections by the Lakes Region Environmental Services. The department has started retrofitting all florescent lighting to new energy efficient electronic ballasts and bulbs, which will result in considerable savings to the county. A lead-lag module was installed on the oil burners to prevent loss of heat during breakdown of any particular boiler resulting in less service calls.

At the Sheriff's Department, we had mostly routine maintenance requests throughout the year. Several evergreen trees were taken down, that had previously caused a security block of vision, by a local tree company. This removal also made more room in which to push snow in the wintertime. The UNH Extension Service and Commissioner's office had no significant maintenance issues other than routine. A parking lot drainage ditch was dug to help alleviate heaving problems at the entrances of the Commissioner's Office and Nursing Home.

In Conclusion

Several necessary changes were made in existing vendors and new contracts were negotiated in 2008. Our direction and philosophy at Belknap County, in terms of improvements and maintenance repairs, is as proactive as it can be and we will operate within budgetary restraints while securing the county's best interests.

A standard maintenance work order system was developed and is currently in its test stages at the jail and courthouse for approval at a later date. Each individual maintenance department was successful in organizing their work areas, offices, and files for a more efficient operation. The successes we have experienced in terms of changes, capital improvements and on going maintenance issues in Belknap County will certainly spill over into the year 2009. The department as a whole will continue to function as a proactive team of skillful and dedicated people keeping the best interests of our county in the forefront.

I respectfully submit this annual report of the Belknap County Maintenance Department on the 31st day of January 2009.

Harold R. Powell,
Director of Maintenance
Belknap County

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

Annual Report—2008

Belknap County Leads The Way!

Collaboration...Creative Planning...Accountability...Citizen Participation...

Juvenile Justice Outcomes Improve

Belknap County Citizens Council has worked tirelessly over the past four years to define and quantify outcomes from the four providers of juvenile justice services in the County. We are the *only* county in the state to successfully do this. In October, 2008, The Council produced the third annual Report Card to the citizens of Belknap County, updating them on progress to this goal. **Three years of data (2005-2007) show:**

- **20% increase in number of successfully closed juvenile cases**
- **16% increase in the amount of community service hours completed by juvenile offenders**

In addition, as the majority of these youth were cared for in community settings, the more expensive court-ordered placements were avoided, thus saving taxpayer dollars.

Three years of data, collected through a uniform Case Closing Form show steady improvements in outcomes for juveniles in Belknap County.

Pilot Information Sharing Project Underway

The Citizens Council and Rep. Alida Millham developed and passed legislation that establishes Belknap County as a Pilot Site for an integrated juvenile justice information sharing system. This bill became law as Chapter 178 on August 10, 2008, allowing designated providers in Belknap County to share information among themselves about the juveniles they serve. This important step sets the stage for greater coordination of services among the providers and a better accounting of outcomes.

We have moved! 36 County Drive, Laconia, NH 527-2432

Belknap County Leading the Way ....
Collaboration...Creative Planning...Accountability...Citizen Participation

CITIZENS COUNCIL LEADS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

JACOB'S STORY

Seven-year-old Jacob has dark brown eyes and a shy smile even though his life has been in chaos and confusion. His father is serving time in the County Jail and his mother is coping with a persistent drug and alcohol addiction. She frequently was not coming home at night to care for Jacob. When he went to school he was always dirty, hungry, and quiet. His elderly neighbor who often gave him a piece of toast in the morning finally reported his status to the police.

As a neglected child, Jacob was placed in a foster home where he could be safe and cared for.

But there are still many struggles and challenges for every member of Jacob's family. His older brother, 15-year old Eric, is in residential placement in northern New Hampshire after several sprees of alcohol and drug-related sprees of shoplifting.

Mom is trying very hard to keep her family together. She is enrolled in a local outpatient substance abuse treatment and is actively working to get Jacob back with her. As an inmate Dad is spending time trying to understand why he loses his temper so easily. He is also working with a tutor to improve his reading skills that measure at an early 4th grade level.

A number of different organizations and agencies are working with this troubled family of four. At a minimum Jacob's mother talks with people from law enforcement, child protection, juvenile justice, criminal justice, substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, foster care, and public and adult education. She is often confused and lost as she tries to keep all this straight. Sometimes she just gives up and pours herself another glass of wine.

In Belknap County and elsewhere, two large and separate systems of services, the child protection system and the juvenile justice system, manage court-ordered placements such as for Jacob and his brother Eric. In many cases, such as with these boys, both systems are working independently with the same family.

National research shows that children like Jacob who are abused or neglected are more likely to have problems in life. Their struggles include getting in trouble with the law and spending time in jail or juvenile detention, at a huge financial and social cost to society.

In 2005 and 2006, the costs →

for court-ordered placements into foster care, group homes, or the Youth Services Center varied from $11,192. to $39,213. per child, per year. Costs for juvenile court-ordered services can range from $40,000 to $250,000 per youth.

Reducing costs and providing better care for children and families are reasons why the Citizens Council is now leading a broad effort to change the way these two systems work together. In June 2008, the Council hosted a Symposium with state and local leaders to learn more about how large systems can change to be more efficient and effective.

Seventeen local, regional, and state agencies and organizations have signed a Charter Agreement, promising to plan together in a structured approach to change the way the complex array of service systems relate to each other and with families in Belknap County.

Committees are now studying and mapping the available resources, policies, processes, existing statutes, and mining available data. John Tuell of the Child Welfare League of America, who is leading similar initiatives around the country, is the project consultant for this Belknap County effort.

"Belknap County has many services available for children and families. However, when my family needed it, the system was very confusing and difficult to navigate. I hope this Initiative will develop a clear and well marked path so that others do not experience what I did. There will be savings realized when people are able to get the help they need." **Ruth O'Hara, RN BS, Director OB Services, LRGHealthcare**

It is clear that this change process will take time. However, the ingredients for success are already present in Belknap County, largely because of the functioning relationships and long-range planning led by the Citizens Council over the past seven years.

COUNCIL LEADS JUVENILE JUSTICE PLANNING

The Citizens Council remains committed to building and maintaining a system of services and programs for juveniles in Belknap County that is:

- Community-based with graduated sanctions
- Values and uses the principles of Restorative Justice →

JUVENILE JUSTICE PLANNING ...

- Prioritizes prevention and early intervention
- Engages citizen volunteers
- Yields solid outcomes that are shared on a regular basis with the citizens of Belknap County.

The current economic environment has challenged many communities in Belknap County, leading them to reconsider their financial contributions to juvenile justice programs that serve Belknap County youth.

Throughout this past year, the Council has continued to lead the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (J.J.A.C.), a large network of juvenile justice providers, other related professionals, and volunteers that meet monthly. JJAC representatives have talked with citizens and municipal leaders throughout this past year, explaining with information and data what would happen to juveniles in Belknap County should these community-based court diversion programs close.

In 2008, the Council surveyed over 200 County residents about their preferences for the juvenile justice system in Belknap County. The survey showed overwhelming support for using some form of tax dollars (municipal, county, state) to help juveniles through such programs as juvenile court diversion, prevention, and other related services.

CITIZENS COUNCIL RELEASES TWO ISSUE BRIEFS IN 2008

The Proclamation establishing the Citizens Council in early 2002 states both that the Council should "develop... a county-wide comprehensive plan for children and families", and "provide public information, education, and opportunities that foster broad citizen involvement". Through its focused attention to collecting and interpreting data specific to Belknap County, the Citizens Council has been able to publish two Issue Briefs in 2008.

January 2008 *"Perspectives on Child Maltreatment, CHINS, and Juvenile Delinquency in Belknap County: A Review of Existing Data and Considerations for Action Planning"* This report examines Belknap County specific data on court-ordered residential placements for children and youth between 2002-2005. These young Belknap County residents were removed from their homes because of abuse, neglect, or delinquency and placed in foster care, group homes, or the Sununu Youth Services Center. →

ISSUE BRIEFS...

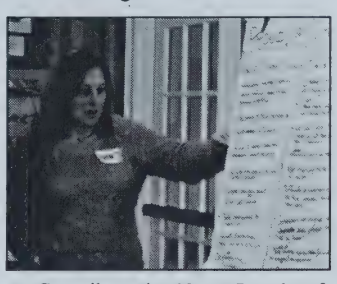
This Belknap County data:

- Parallels national findings, showing an undeniable connection between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency
- Underscores the need for better coordination between the two mega-systems: Juvenile Justice and Child Protection
- Launched the Systems Integration Initiative in Belknap County, as described earlier in this report.

December 2008 *"Belknap County Juvenile Justice at a Crossroads"*

This report provides an overview of the juvenile justice system in Belknap County and describes the accomplishments and challenges within the current juvenile justice system. This report concludes with recommendations for change to more closely align with the goals stated by the Citizens Council, its networks, and many citizens in Belknap County.

This Issue Brief also includes a summary of the survey completed by numerous residents of Belknap County. While the sample size was relatively small (N=226), this survey shows strong public sentiment for community-based services that are supported through tax funds.



Council member Nancy Porosky of Gilmanton leads a discussion.. (January 2008)

NH DHHS Commissioner Nick Toumpas visits a Council meeting (May 2008)

Council members, Rich Moed of Gilford and Betty Anson of Laconia, at the Symposium (June 2008)

VISIT the recently re-designed Council Website

www.bccj.org

for more information about the Council, its goals, and projects.

Belknap County Leading the Way ....
Collaboration...Creative Planning...Accountability...Citizen Participation

THE CITIZENS COUNCIL IS...

- A neutral, regional planning resource for social service organizations
- An inter-agency coordinating body across multiple systems
- A research and funding clearinghouse
- Able to organize a local response to emerging and critical issues
- A consultation opportunity for neighborhood and community groups
- Able to develop, analyze, and report outcomes for juvenile justice services
- Offering citizen oversight and advocacy on behalf of children and families
- Disseminating topical reports on the status of children and families in Belknap County
- A catalyst for systems change initiatives that affect children, youth, and families.

Council members are volunteers who live in Belknap County and have an interest in re-shaping their towns and communities so that children and families can live with dignity and respect. Council members are appointed by the County Commissioners through an application process.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Betty Anson
  Laconia
- Laurie Belanger
  Gilford
- Emily Clement
  Laconia
- Sarah Fox
  Sanbornton
- Rasim Gusinac
  Gilford
- Amy Hall
  Belmont
- Pam Kuczkowski
  New Hampton
- Sandy McLaughlin
  Gilford
- Richard Moed
  Gilford
- Ruth O'Hara
  Laconia
- Andre Paquette, Chair
  Laconia
- Jim Pilliod, MD
  Belmont
- Nancy Porosky
  Gilmanton
- Deborah Rosato
  Laconia
- Micheline Roy
  Laconia
- Gil Schohan, Vice Chair
  Belmont

This report has been prepared and approved by the Belknap County Citizens Council.

Andre Paquette, Chair and Alan Robichaud, Executive Director

Belknap County Economic Development Council
2008 Annual Report to Belknap County

To the Honorable Commissioners:

Since establishing our offices in July of 1992, we have been providing economic development and business assistance to municipalities and existing, new, and prospective businesses on a request basis without charge. As a regional development organization, we strive for a "climate" that understands what sustainable economic development is and how it works, as well as the importance of planning and maintaining the economic infrastructure and wellbeing of the community and a region. In our regional capacity, we have worked to unify the efforts of the region while ever mindful of the desire to preserve the uniqueness of our communities. The organization is structured as a non-profit 501(c)(6) regional development corporation with 100 Incorporators representing Belknap County municipalities, businesses, organizations, and residents. The Incorporators elect up to a 21-person Board of Director.

Regional Expectations and Strategic Priorities:
The BCEDC and its partner, Lakes Region Planning Commission, were already deeply involved in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in 2008 when local businesses were just starting to sense the end of the longest economic boom in decades. Board members Beyer, Edelstein, Frawley Drake, Koulet and Lipman along with Executive Director Boulanger serve on the CEDS Steering Committee, which has worked to identify project opportunities, refine goals and objectives, and complete the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report.

The CEDS Steering Committee hosted a Listening Session with Fairpoint and their consulting group, Vital Economy. This translated into opportunities to further the work of the New Economy subcommittee. Executive Director Boulanger also participated in the Connect Northern New England Economic Scenario Model User's Group hosted by Vital Economy as part of FairPoint Communication's Connect NNE initiative. The User Group worked diligently to develop an Economic Model as a software tool for exploring the workings of regional economies. The tool will be helpful in assessing new projects to the area to assist with regional planning and comparing the potential impact of competing projects.
The year ended with the completion of the CEDS report, available online at www.

lakesrpc.org/CEDS. The subcommittees, formed out of the strategic planning process, continue their research, initiatives, and still meet regularly. The CEDS committee will meet through 2009 to provide the subcommittees ongoing support and direction as they identify their strategic priorities for the next five to ten years.

Summary 2008 Activities

- Executive Director, Jennifer Boulanger graduates from Leadership Lakes Region
- Revolving Loan Fund Manager, Maria Del Rio – participates in USDA RLF Underwriting Training
- Program Coordinator, Lyn O'Callaghan is accepted to Leadership Lakes Region
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy completed

Area Assistance

- The website, www.bcedc.org which focuses on getting the information to our businesses whether they are seeking more details about our services, commercial lending options, topical published reports, or direct links to registering a business, traffic counts, commercial property or simply "who is who" in local and state government. During 2008 we have averaged 700 Unique Visitors per month with over 227,500 hits over the course of the year. Further each visit averages four minutes in duration and each visitor views on average three (3) pages.
- The website, www.liveworkandplaynh.com, which promotes the region as a place to live and work, have averaged 239 Unique Visitors per month with over 97,900 hits over the course of the year. Further each visit averages two and one half minutes in duration and each visitor views on average three (3) pages.
- Participated with various communities/organizations on events and long-term initiatives including community forums and economic development planning. This includes programs and workshops with Main Street communities, meetings with Town Boards and community groups. The Executive Director served as Economic Issues Program Day Chair for Leadership Lakes Region and advised on the organization of a Lakes Region Job Fair.
- Clients serviced during 2008 include local investors interested in resurrecting a performing arts center, city/town planners seeking to identify opportunities and developments, the Laconia Gilford Business Park advisory committee

meetings on park status.

- Continued work with re-use projects including Blooms Variety Stores, Granite Media Center (industry clustered tenant space and production room opportunities), Allen Rogers/Laconia (under development 76 units of housing and future commercial space 30,000+ sf.), as well as other major development or conservation properties in Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, New Hampton, and Tilton.
- The staff handled over ten requests for relocating or new facility assistance and continued to provide "Belknap County – The Place We Call Home" packets to new businesses and key new business/organization leadership. In addition, more than 10 requests from area owners, realtors, and state industrial agents on sale/lease and reuse of existing property were handled.

Business Assistance

- The BCEDC continues to collaborate with SNHU on the development of initiatives that help both entities fulfill their mission and provides administrative and office facilities to our partners in SCORE.
- Approximately 200 entities sought assistance varying from information on zoning in various communities, hiring workforce, rules and regulations on subdivisions to extended counseling on starting business, financing expansion, etc. In addition to the usual general inquiries, our two websites have created efficiencies in dealing with inquiries.
- More than 135 businesses, organizations, or aspiring entrepreneurs received extended assistance:
    - 109 Belknap County entrepreneurs and businesses received extended assistance from a SCORE counselor. SCORE has been a great addition compensating for the loss of the SBDC counselor. SCORE continues to be a valued partner in providing much needed Business Assistance and Technical Assistance.
    - 27 businesses and organizations received extended assistance from BCEDC's professional staff.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

- This year the BCEDC received 27 inquiries about borrowing from the RLF totaling over $4 million, 15 of those inquiries converted into direct loan applications totaling $2 million.
- The BCEDC Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Loan Review Committee, approved 6 loans totaling $803,000 and leveraging approximately $10 million in external financing.

- One loan supported the ownership transition of a local retail business.
- One loan supported the construction of a new retail business.
- One loan supported working capital for a local retail establishment.
- One loan supported the start-up of a local service business.
- One loan supported the start-up of a local catering business.
- One loan supported the purchase of equipment for a growing local business.

- Satisfactorily completed USDA/Rural Development annual audit. Revolving Loan Fund manager attended annual RLF training.
- Attended CDBG training through the NH Community Development Finance Authority.
- Promoted use of RLF with local lenders and expanded representation on the RLF Loan Committee.
- Revisited and revised the RLF's policies and procedures manual with respect to Loan Loss Reserves, Risk Ratings and Policy Exceptions.

Outreach and Marketing

- During 2008, the Council expanded its outreach in person, in print and through various electronic means. A monthly e-newsletter sent to incorporators, investors and other business friends was redesigned and reinstituted. F.Y.I. is also available on-line at www.bcedc.org. The Council also redesigned, renamed and increased the frequency of its print newsletter, Belknap Matters. Three editions are now to be published and it is available on-line at www.bcedc.org.
- Council staff created and designed a newsletter for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (February 2008 and November 2008 editions available on-line at www.lakesrpc.org/ceds.
- Print ads were designed and place din the NH Division of Economic Development's publication Innovate in the Granite State, and with the Lakes Region Association's annual Where to Guide.
- The BCEDC collaborated with the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce on a four-part workshop series, Adventures in a Flat Land. In June, the Council hosted an education and information session for Incorporators called "BCEDC over Bagels".
- To chart its direction for the next five years and maximize its financial, human, and volunteer resources, the BCEDC staff and Board of Directors par-

ticipated in a Strategic Planning Retreat, facilitated by Investor Robert McElwee of Leadership Development Services and generously hosted by the new Gilford Town Library. The retreat helped to identify the Council's strengths, opportunities and need to better promote its services. The BCEDC Revolving Loan Fund materials were subsequently redesigned.

- The Executive Director has continued service in the Laconia Rotary Club and was a member of the Class of 2008 and speaker for Leadership Lakes Region. The Program Coordinator is currently a member of the Leadership Lakes Region Class of 2009.

Together We Make A Difference

The economic vitality of the region requires the commitment of many, and it is this support of the BCEDC through 17 years that is responsible for our achievements. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Belknap County Commissioners and Delegation. The quality of assistance the Council offers to Belknap County communities, businesses and organizations could not be realized without your continued support.

Since inception, funding for our services has come from a mixture of public and private sources. In 2008, we received over $70,000 in grants and contributions to underwrite various activities. Nearly 100 community investors help us maintain services and develop initiatives that enhance the region's economy. Southern New Hampshire University continues to provide office and meeting space for the Council and its partners; this contribution is valued in excess of $25,000. The County provided $75,000 in operating revenues for 2007. The balance of revenues was raised through our revolving loan fund lending. The Council oversees more than $2.9 million in assets for the benefit of Belknap County. To date, the Council has assisted the County and towns in securing approximately $5.5 million in Community Development Block Grants that are invested in community projects.

An organization is only as dynamic as its people; we thank both our staff and volunteers for their commitment. Special thanks to the staff in the County's Financial Office; we appreciate Deborah Shackett, Marie Mora, and Angela Bovill for the extra distance they go in assisting us. We owe a continued debt to Southern New Hampshire University for housing our Business Information Center library and providing us with our offices and meeting space, which has greatly enhance dour delivery of services and programs.

We truly make a difference because of the generous support of our member-investors; these businesses and individuals recognize that working together to enhance economic opportunities benefits everyone.

As we celebrate 17 years of service to Belknap County, we rededicate ourselves to perseverance and hard work. We envision the possibilities and opportunities our future holds.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors

Greg Goddard, *Chair*
Gunstock Mountain Resort
David Haley, *Vice-Chair*
Munsey & Brazil Insurance Agency
Tom Garfield *Secretary*
Laconia Savings Bank
Michael Persson, *Treasurer*
Lawson and Persson, PC
Bill Beyer, *Director*,
Meredith Village Savings Bank
Christopher Boothby, *Director*
County Commissioner
Dale Dormody
DK Net Design
Mark Edelstein Ph.D., *Director*
Lakes Region Community College
Ed Engler
Laconia Daily Sun
Tony Ferruolo, *Director*
Hospitality Consultant
James Fitzgerald, *Director*
Retired Educator
Debbie Frawley Drake, *Director*
Lakes Region Linen
Kimon Koulet, *Director*
Lakes Region Planning Commission
Henry Lipman, *Director*
Councilor, City of Laconia
Don Morrissey, *Director*
Retired Educator
Andy Patterson
LRGHealthcare
Steve Smith
Steven J. Smith & Associates
Sean Sullivan
Nathan Wechsler & Company, P.A.
Representative John Thomas, *Director*
Belknap County Delegation
Jane Wood, *Director*
Shore Title Abstracting, LLC
Jennifer D. Boulanger, *Executive Director*
Maria Del Rio, *Loan Fund Manager*
Lyn O'Callaghan, *Program Coordinator*

www.bcedc.org

The Full 2008 Report of the BCEDC Board will be released on March 25, 2009 and can be accessed on our website, www.bcedc.org , or by calling the BCEDC office at 603-524-3057.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Goddard
Chair, Board of Directors

Belknap County UNH Cooperative Extension

UNH Cooperative Extension provides Belknap County citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy. As a university outreach program, we have a network of professional Extension staff located in NH's ten counties. We work with UNH researchers and local volunteers to design and conduct educational programs that meet societal, environmental and economic needs.

Agricultural Resources

The Agricultural Resources program in Belknap County provides research-based information on soil science, integrated pest management, fruit and vegetable production, lawn care, pasture and hay land, nursery/bedding plant production and landscaping. During 2008, 262 phone calls and 27 drop-in inquiries were handled and 55 site visits were made by Belknap County's Agriculture Educator, Amy Ouellette. In addition, 451 Belknap County residents attended workshops and presentations taught or planned by Amy and 282 phone calls were answered by Extension's Family, Home and Garden Education Hot-Line (1-877-EXT-GROW). This toll-free line, staffed by Master Gardeners, is open M – F, 9 am until 2 pm.

Program Highlights in 2008:

- Eighty six licensed pesticide applicators were educated and received re-certification credits necessary to maintain their pesticide licenses. This group includes farmers, landscapers, exterminators and employees of greenhouses, golf courses and towns. Participants learned about environmental and human safety related to pesticides, sprayer calibration, integrated pest management, pesticide storage and proper disposal of pesticides.
- The extended summer rains caused widespread fungal diseases of plants throughout the lakes region. In July, Amy diagnosed plant diseases at a local farm and made recommendations for pesticide application, saving two substantial crops. The farmer managed to harvest almost 100% of these 14 acres, which yielded over $100,000 in revenue.
- One hundred twelve home gardeners attended eight workshops on fruit production, native pollinators, maintaining fields for wildlife, pruning ornamental plants, vegetable gardening, soil preparation for gardening, pesticide safety, turf maintenance and landscaping.
- Soil test results were analyzed and fertilizer recommendations were written for 101 gardens, 24 corn, forage and pastures, 15 commercial fruit or vegetable operations, 5 commercial landscapers, and 20 golf courses or town athletic fields.

- Forty three Master Gardeners contributed almost 800 hours of service in Belknap County in 2008. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who share their enthusiasm for gardening by contributing to community projects and extending the reach of the Extension's Agricultural Resources program. Master Gardeners contributed funds to the Belknap County Jail garden program and Amy Ouellette provided technical information to Superintendent Grenier throughout the growing season.
- Fifty three site visits were made to farms, garden centers, and municipal properties. Five state specialists in agriculture from UNH accompanied Amy Ouellette on these site visits. Recommendations on integrated pest management reduced pest injury (from plant disease and insects), saving producers money and reducing the impact of pesticides on the environment, primarily Lake Winnipesaukee and the region's smaller lakes.

Family & Consumer Resources

Suzanne Cagle is Extension Educator of Family & Consumer Resources for Belknap County. FCR programs fall into three broad subject areas: Food Safety & Nutrition, Resource Management, and Child Development. Information is available through one-day workshops, workshop series, publications, and direct consultation. Over five hundred individuals participated in the various programs offered this year. In addition, more than 600 families received parenting information through the Cradle Crier and Toddler Tales newsletter series.

- Food Safety and Nutrition: The CDC estimates that 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations, and 5,000 deaths occur annually from food-borne illness. FCR food safety programs target knowledge and behavior within the food service environment that is known to be connected to a reduction in risk such as good personal hygiene practices, preventing cross contamination, and controlling time and temperature conditions of food. The SAFE-Safety Awareness in the Food Environment program was offered 8 times this year to 125 food service workers in restaurants, schools, and other community organizations.
- Family Resource Management: Many families are currently feeling increasing financial pressure. Family Resource Management programs focus on increasing knowledge and skills in a variety of areas, including: identifying goals and developing a spending/savings plan, understanding credit and reducing overall debt, stretching resources, and becoming a more educated consumer. Workshops and series were offered 10 times in Belknap County in a variety of locations including at workplaces, the Laconia library, the Carey house, and the Belknap County House of Corrections. 126 people participated in Family Resource Management programs.

- Parenting and Child Development: Research indicates that when we increase positive, age appropriate experiences in childhood and support healthy adult/child relationships, we decrease the risks that children will engage in risky or anti-social behaviors as they move into adulthood. To that end, the FCR Child Development programs focus on providing adult caregivers and role models with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the experiences and relationships of children. Parenting programs were offered at the Meredith Community Center, Laconia Adult Ed., Gilford Elementary School and LRGH. Workshops focused on providing caregivers with information about their child's development, setting age appropriate expectations, using positive discipline strategies, and dealing effectively with conflict and stress. 89 caregivers participated in these programs. Workshops relating to child development were also offered to child care professionals in Belknap County. 69 local child care providers participated in programs designed to provide knowledge and resources to enhance children's success.

Forestry and Wildlife

Andy Fast is Extension Educator of Forest Resources for Belknap County. The Forestry and Wildlife program provides education to citizens, natural resource professionals and municipalities. Information is delivered through programs, site visits, walk-ins, telephone and email. Over 500 direct contacts were made this year.

Forest Stewardship:

- 366 landowners were assisted through email and telephone conversations on a wide variety of forest resource and wildlife subjects. In addition, 63 landowners participated in 44 woodland exams covering 2,370 acres. A wide variety of topics were discussed including: wildlife habitat enhancement, silviculture, selling timber, forest management planning, the Current Use program, forest harvesting laws, conservation easements, forest ecology, recreational trails, how to hire a logger or forester, federal cost-share programs and chain saw safety.
- 53 referrals were made to consulting foresters for services including: stewardship plan preparation, timber stand improvement, timber sale preparation and administration, wildlife habitat enhancement, cost-share activities, boundary line identification, Current Use maps, and road layout.
- Andy continued to provide technical assistance, outreach, and project review for Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP) in Belknap County through a new MOU between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forestry and Wildlife staff.

2008 Tornado Damage Response:
In response to the 2008 tornado, Andy assisted 24 residents through email and phone calls as well as 11 residents through site visits that covered 202 acres. In addition to site visits, a comprehensive website was developed to provide information about storm damage, safety tips for cleanup, and to provide access to other state agency resources pertaining to disaster assistance and cleanup.

Financial Assistance to Landowners:
Reviewed and approved 3 cost-shared forest stewardship plans covering 247 acres. The EQIP stewardship plan cost-share payments were $5229. Reviewed and approved 3 acres of cost-shared timber stand improvement (TSI). The EQIP TSI cost-share was $165. Assisted in the development of 2 WHIP prescribed fire plans. The prescribed fire plans and associated inventory cost-share payments were $8000.

4-H Youth Development
Becky Levesque is the Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development providing opportunities for 273 Belknap County youth 5 – 18 years. 134 volunteers (94 female and 40 male) mentored young people in projects of interest. Using the "learn by doing" model, young people improve project and life skills including public speaking, parliamentary procedures, leadership development, and an appreciation of community through service projects. Global Positioning Systems, Aerospace, and Animal & Plant Science programs are delivered to encourage young people to apply science, engineering, and technology principles and practices in their everyday lives, provide post-secondary educational and career oriented direction.

- 22 4-H groups represent the following communities: 19% Alton, 18% Barnstead, 12% Tilton, 10% Laconia, 10% New Hampton, 9% Sanbornton, 7% Belmont, 7% Gilmanton, 5% Gilford, 3% Meredith
- 22 Food Stamp eligible youth participated in the "Food Is Fun" correspondence course which covers food safety, eating nutritional foods, physical activity, and reading labels.
- 135 young people demonstrated higher level communication skills at the Belknap County 4-H Fair through exhibits, animal shows, animal science quizzes, hands on activities, and teaching the general public about agriculture, science, and technology.
- 25 youth completed record keeping books for review. An additional 9 teens completed training on resume development. 14 youth participated in panel interviews
- 14 youth interviewed for county and state 4-H awards, interviews prepare teens for job interviews.

- 8 teens attended the state wide career trips, 28 participated in UNH Teen Leadership Conference, 46 attended 4-H camp.
- 12 volunteers participated in formal local, state and/or regional training to increase their skill in positive youth development techniques.
- 9 youth and adults learned techniques in Safe Food Handling in preparation for running a food booth.
- A focused effort to strengthen the county wide teen club has served as a venue to engage young adolescents that are not involved in sports. Through collaborations with juvenile diversion programs, 4 teens have been referred to the teen club for positive programming. One of these young men attends regularly, calls when questions arise, has taken multiple leadership roles, and demonstrates an understanding of parliamentary procedure. The group's focus is leadership, community service, and specialized projects of interest. (fishing, GIS, audio/video equipment, and Business Management to name a few.) Quote from a 15 year old participant: "I have developed organizational skills, the ability to work with others, and most of all the ability to understand animals and people. It really helped me out as a person, getting a sense of responsibility at an early age".

Nutrition Connections

Brenda Carey is an Extension Program Associate for the Nutrition Connections program in Belknap County. Nutrition Connections helps people living in or near poverty acquire the knowledge and skills needed to make changes in behavior, improve diets and to get more for their food dollars. Education is offered in the areas of nutrition, money management, food preparation, food safety, menu planning and smart shopping. Nutrition Connections also works with schools that meet income criteria.

Research has documented the effectiveness of this program for increasing the nutritional well-being of the families it serves. A national survey in 2007 showed that 92% of those "graduating" from these programs improved their dietary intake. This included an increase of about 1.4 servings per day of fruits and vegetables. Nutrition Connections, through the national Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), saves families and tax payers money. Multiple cost benefit analyses in several states highlight the value of the program and document that for every dollar invested in EFNEP, benefits can reach as high as $10.64 from reduced health care costs. Another study showed that for every $1 to implement the program, $2.48 is saved on food expenditures, reducing the need for emergency food assistance.

In Belknap County, 337 youth and 260 adults with 521 family members participated in Nutrition Connections programming during the program year 2008. This includes one-time classes as well as people enrolled in a series of classes.

Data from pre/post surveys for adults taking a series of lessons indicate the following percentage of adults changed their behavior after they completed Nutrition Connections classes in 2007-2008:

- Overall, 85% of the adults who took a series of classes (usually 5-6 lessons), showed improvement in one or more nutrition practices. These include planning meals, comparing prices, not running out of food before the end of the month and shopping with a grocery list.
- Overall, 88% showed improvement in at least one of the following: making healthy food choices, preparing foods without adding salt, reading nutrition labels and making sure their children ate breakfast.
- Overall, 60% showed improvement in food safety such as thawing and/or storing foods properly. Food safety is critical to avoiding food borne illness. Food borne illness can result in days lost from work or from school and increased health care costs.
- Teacher feedback from Belknap County schools is extremely exciting and positive. A few of the student changes observed by teachers include:
    - Students are eating more fruits and vegetables.
    - Students are eating breakfast more often.
    - Students are going home and "teaching" their families about what they have learned.
    - Students are making better choices at the grocery stores.
    - Students are reading labels.
    - Students are bringing healthier snacks from home.

Overall, people who participate in Nutrition Connections programs are making improved health/nutrition choices for themselves and their families. The implications to making smart nutrition choices are financial, emotional and physical. Nutrition Connections helps people learn how to become more self reliant and more independent. We provide the education to people so they have the tools, awareness and knowledge to make healthier choices.

Belknap County Conservation District
2008 Annual Report

Overview

Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD) is a non-regulatory county agency that exists to help the citizens of Belknap County manage their natural resources. Our primary focus is to prevent the loss of soil through erosion, contamination or depletion and to maintain or improve water quality both above and below ground. We accomplish this by providing access to technical expertise and financial assistance through our partnership with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); administering private and government grants; coordinating paid and volunteer labor; and collaboration with other federal, state, and local agencies/organizations.

The Board of Supervisors of BCCD periodically surveys the public to identify specific concerns within the county that BCCD can address. Our current project priorities include agricultural conservation, community planning & water quality, wetlands & surface mining, wildlife & woodlands, and air quality & energy.

Accomplishments in 2008

In 2008 BCCD addressed the publics' identified concerns by:

Agricultural Conservation

- securing and administering grant funds to help place a conservation easement on the Ramblin' Vewe Farm in Gilford to maintain it as a working farm and develop a conservation education facility. The owners of Ramblin' Vewe Farm, Dick and Betty Persons were named BCCD's Cooperators of the Year. This project was made possible through multiple partnerships.
- obtaining long-term agreement from NH DRED to manage the Opechee Forest Tract for agriculture and wildlife habitat improvement
- partnering with Lakes Region Community College to site and develop composting operation to be managed by students
- coordinated and managed the BCCD Community Gardens - providing garden plots to agencies and organizations that assist the underserved and interested citizens
- hosted workshop on Easy Access to Local Foods which featured locally grown and/or produced foodstuffs

Community Planning & Water Quality

- identification of non-conforming sewerage systems abutting town water supply in the Town of Meredith
- facilitation of grant project to improve storm water drainage and improve water quality of Center Harbor Bay
- for a fee, provide municipalities with private engineering consultant services to review subdivision and drainage plans
- helping a dairy farm in the Town of Sanbornton improve the quality of the water leaving the farm by facilitating technical expertise, volunteer labor, and grant funding assistance to upgrade farm infrastructure
- facilitating NRCS consultation with the City of Laconia regarding siltation of Jewett Brook
- installation of a solar water pump to provide irrigation to BCCD managed Community Gardens
- assisting a City of Laconia resident to gain technical expertise and funding to address extreme streambank erosion on Durkee Brook
- hosting workshops on Proper Pet Waste Management and Pond Maintenance
- BCCD Coordinator participation in Laconia Street Tree program

Wetlands & Surface Mining

- making available BCCD consultants to provide project estimates for gravel pit reviews to the Town of Belmont

Wildlife & Woodlands

- facilitating consultations between private landowners and NRCS staff to address interest in wildlife habitat improvements and woods road construction
- BCCD fundraising sales of tree, shrub, and food producing plants
- offering live, disease free, hatchery raised NH trout to private landowners to stock their ponds through our fundraising fish sale

Air Quality & Energy

- installation of solar powered water pump at the BCCD Community Gardens
- installation of solar powered livestock watering system at a dairy farm in the Town of Sanbornton
- installation of windmill technology to improve water quality of the public water body known as Hunkins Pond in the Town of Sanbornton

Funding in 2008

- BCCD receives a portion of its funding from the county. In 2008 Belknap County contributed $95,866 to BCCD's operating budget. The county funds are used to pay the salary and benefits of one full-time staff member, the salary of one part-time staff member, and a small portion of the hourly wages for support staff. Grant funds and dollars secured through fundraising, service fees or donations pay for project expenses and some operational costs. The county's contribution is vital to the ability of the District to apply for grants that bring additional dollars into Belknap County. Grantors see a contribution from the county as a validation of support. Without that validation grantors are not likely to award grant dollars. Most grants do not pay for staff, only the supplies for a project.
- BCCD works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service to bring federal dollars into the county. These federal dollars are used for conservation projects and are dispersed throughout the county. Through its relationship with the Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD) the federal government annually supplies technical expertise, equipment and rental space to Belknap County. This federal support represents approximately $300,000 of value annually to the county, made possible by the presence of BCCD.
- BCCD extends a Thank You to the NH Mooseplate Grant Program, Northway Bank – Belmont branch, the Opechee Garden Club, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and private donors and customers for financially assisting us in our service to Belknap County.

Staff in 2008

- BCCD saw the retirement of Jan Hooper, Coordinator after 18+ years of service to Belknap County. Jan's position was filled by Lisa Morin, a former BCCD Program Assistant who returned to BCCD after a five year absence. Lisa, a life-long resident of Belknap County, is an active volunteer member of the Laconia Conservation Commission and the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition.
- Roger Hogan, BCCD's Watershed Planning and Farmland Protection Specialist, retired in August. He has expressed an interest in consulting for BCCD as needed.
- Other BCCD staff consists of Nancy Sapack, Program Assistant; Lisa Rixen, Project Manager; seasonal staffing provided by Jan Welch and Shirley Stokes
- BCCD uses the services of paid consultant Lee Pleeter, Book-keeper and Mary Baker provided by the federally subsidized agency -National ABLE
- VOLUNTEERS !!! Every year BCCD is indebted to its many volunteers

who give their time and resources to Belknap County though our projects and programs.

Respectfully Submitted,
BCCD Board of Supervisors

John Hodsdon, Chairman, Meredith
Ken Kettenring, Supervisor, New Hampton
Earle Chase, Supervisor, Barnstead
Jon Martin, Supervisor, Laconia
Paul Rushlow, Supervisor, Tilton
Nancy Rendall, Associate Supervisor, Gilmanton
Melanie Benton, Associate Supervisor, New Hampton
Elizabeth Keefe, Associate Supervisor, Sanbornton
Cynthia Folsom, Associate Supervisor, Tilton
Dean Anson, Associate Supervisor, Laconia

All BCCD and NRCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political belief, marital or familial status.

To the Residents of Belknap County:

Thank you!!!

The appropriation that we received from the Belknap County's 2008 budget has helped us to cover the costs of providing mental health services to residents of your community who are unable to pay the full cost of their services.

During Calendar Year 2008 (ending December 31, 2008), a total of 2,060 Belknap County residents came to Genesis seeking help for their mental health problems.

Of that total, county funding directly supported 74 adults between the ages of 18 and 59. These individuals were chosen based on proof of residency and financial and medical need. In an effort to link Belknap County residents to community resources, Genesis refers everyone without health insurance to Healthlink. We use the Healthlink plan as a form of discount for the client. We do not ask Belknap County to support services for clients who have other means to pay, such as insurance or sufficient funds to cover services.

At Genesis we strive to enhance the quality of life in our communities by providing services that promote recovery from mental illness and emotional distress, in collaboration with clients, families and our community partners. Our staff is accountable for placing individuals on the path to recovery from mental illness and aiding them in their daily lives throughout the process.

We specialize in individual and group counseling and psychiatric services. We work with our most persistently ill patients on basic life skills such as public interaction and stable employment. We help parents and children to foster strong family relationships. Working with local police and fire departments, we provide emergency services 24 hours a day 7 days a week to residents of any age who are going through a mental health crisis.

Your financial support has helped to strengthen our work with children, families and adults.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Pritchard

Margaret M. Pritchard
Executive Director

~ NOTES ~